Notable Oregonians: Joseph Meek

Joseph Lafayette “Joe” Meek was a trapper, law enforcement official, and politician in the Oregon Country and later Oregon Territory of the United States. A pioneer involved in the fur trade before settling in the Tualatin Valley, Meek would play a prominent role at the Champoeg Meetings of 1843 where he was elected as a sheriff. Later he served in the Provisional Legislature of Oregon before being selected as the United States Marshal for the Oregon Territory.

Joe Meek was born in Washington County, Virginia, United States, near the Cumberland Gap on February 9, 1810. At the age of 18 he joined William Sublette and the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, and roamed the Rocky Mountains for over a decade as a fur trapper. In about 1829, the nineteen-year-old Meek traveled with a trapping party along the Yellowstone River. A band of Blackfoot scattered the trappers, leaving Meek to travel into what is today Yellowstone National Park. In a later account included in author Frances Fuller Victor’s 1870 biography of Meek, The River of the West, he described the region. The whole country beyond was smoking with the vapor from boiling springs, and burning with gases, issuing from small craters, each of which was emitting a sharp whistling sound. In Idaho in 1838,

Continued on Page 8

11 Bizarre & Dangerous Items Sold by Sears in 1902

The 1902 edition of the Sears, Roebuck catalogue offers items of particular interest and questionable health benefits—everything from the latest fashions to the “surest” cures. Here are some highlights.

1. DR. ROSE’S FRENCH ARSENIC COMPLEXION WAFERS

These poisonous wafers were advertised as being “simply magical” for the complexion, their most striking effects “being brought about by their steady use.” They were guaranteed to improve “even the coarsest and most repulsive skin and complexion” - especially if you’re into the lurid pallor of death.

2. KEROSENE EMULSION

To be used as an insecticide on crops and animals, this product promises to kill “plant lice, red spiders, scales, and mealy bugs,” among other pests. It also offers strong motivation for washing your fruits and veggies very well before eating.

3. (VETERINARY) CASTRATING KNIVES

While many parents might argue that castrating knives pose no lasting danger to male infants,
On Saturday, February the 13th, Oregon’s Birthday was once again celebrated at Lafayette Miller Log Cabin and the Poling Church. Once again it was very successful event and well attended by many members and visitors. Congratulations to everyone for making this event another “sharing” of our history. Earlier this month another event was held at the Heritage Center. Although the Yamhill County Soil and Water Conservation District (YCS&WCD) Native Plant sale was not conducted by YCHS it provided a great opportunity for visitors to the sale to become acquainted with YCHS. Several volunteers were on hand to demonstrate and publicize who we are and what we have to offer to the Community. Again thank you to all the volunteers who participated. I understand that the YCS&WCD was very pleased with the venue and will likely be a regular customer to rent the facility.

In my previous letter I made reference to our proposed Strategic Plan placing more emphasis on our mission. It is interesting to look at how we are using this century’s technology to fulfill our mission; particularly for sharing our history. Here are some examples currently being used or are at various stages of development:

Tech-savvy volunteers at Lafayette are busy rescuing and digitizing old audio and visual tapes on to CD and DVD disks. The disks will be available to anyone who has an interest to listen, view or share them. Some of the material being copied is very valuable from an historic perspective and, if lost, could never be replaced.

The Media Committee has taken on a project to re-design our Web Site. This will allow for access to more interesting and current information. We are aware that there is considerable tourist traffic here in Yamhill County and it is common practice for tourists to search Web Sites to find things of interest. Our Web Site will be a valuable tool for both members and tourists. The Committee has already linked the Web Site to Facebook and YouTube. Look for the new and improved Web Site in the near future.

We now have internet service at the Heritage Center. This will allow members and vendors to access other sites, email service, etc. Vendors at our various events are starting to require internet service to conduct sales. By using the internet to link to our computer at Lafayette the Heritage Center Accessions Committee will be able to use the collections software at Lafayette to catalog their artifacts into a consolidated database.

Not as a mission oriented technology as such, but as a service to our members and visitors, we now have Automated External Defibrillators (AED’s) installed at the Miller Log Cabin, Heritage Hall entrance and the Activities Building. They require no previous knowledge or training to use; but we hope we never have to.

Finally, we are now using on-line banking. This greatly simplifies the work and time required to conduct our bill payments and other banking needs. In the future members requesting reimbursement for expenses or cash advances will receive checks directly from First Federal.

John Lewis
YCHS President
Phone: (503) 883-9588
Email: jjaklewis@aol.com

Submitted: February 15, 2016
Board Meeting Recap ~ February 10, 2016

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

Committee Reports:
- **Activities & Events Committee**—The committee is writing the new rental policies for the Heritage Center. The committee is reviewing advertising and brochure options to help bring in new and returning people to YCHS events. Upcoming events are the Oregon Birthday Celebration at the Lafayette Site on February 14th and Farm Fest on April 9th. New events being pursued are Father’s Day at the Heritage Center, Garden Party in June at the Lafayette site, and possibly a BBQ/Dance/Fundraiser in July.
- **Heritage Center Development & Operations Committee**—Vince Haworth is interested in refurbishing the old Bernard Buggy. The Gibbs Community Club and Chehalem Center signs have agreed to make up small vinyl signs explaining the history behind the large signs in our collection. A Mac Plaid blanket has been donated for hands-on use at the HC.
- **Media Committee**—Sarah Miller reported that the committee is developing a proposal for YCHS website restructuring. Proposed new capabilities are credit card use, fillable forms, easily distributed online forms, online store, online applications and online donations.

President’s Report:
- John Lewis reported that the society received a Thank You note from YCAP/ Oregon Food Bank for collecting 484 pounds of food during Handmade Holidays. Online banking with First Federal S&L is now operational. He urged all board members to attend the YCHS General Meetings and volunteer for YCHS projects and events.

Secretary’s Report:
- Jo McIntyre has collected and filed the signed conflict of interest forms.

Treasurer’s Report:
- Todd Holt provided the treasurer’s report which is on file in the record book in Lafayette.

Unfinished Business:
- 2016-2022 Strategic Plan was adopted with comments. 1. Be sure entire membership is fully informed regarding plans for Lafayette and Heritage Center sites. 2. Need more details regarding monthly meeting programs. 3. Need full-time director and a way to pay the salary from existing income streams or the director to develop new streams. 4. May need extra attention on Poling Church plans and Lafayette cemetery.
- Status of the Murder Quilt Custody—Jean Sartor will write a letter to be signed by the members of the quilt committee confirming YCHS ownership.

New Business:
- Facility Rental Policy and Alcohol Service Policy & Agreement—Pam Watts reported on the new policies and pointed out the following. 1. A facility rental policy has existed for several years. 2. Plan allows for coordination of YCHS site use needs and desire for more rental income. 3. Pricing was gathered from a variety of sources. 4. The committee will review prices in six months. 5. The society is getting many rental inquiries. 6. The Insurance company has reviewed and added comments which the committee will incorporate.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo McIntyre, Secretary
Submitted February 15, 2016

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accessions Lafayette:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ursula Doud</td>
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<td>Sawmill:</td>
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<td>Jerry Tewan</td>
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Secrets of the Past Tours:  
Karen Sitton-Saxberg
Steam Engine:  
Vern Yeager
Treasures in the Attic:  
Pam Watts
Native Plant Sale at YCHS a Huge Success!

We estimate that over 700 people attend the native plant sale over three days. The conservation district distributed over 30,000 plants, that included coniferous and deciduous trees, a variety of native shrubs, and several types of native forbs. We had at least 30 volunteers help with the sale. They helped with many types of tasks including set-up, packing pre-orders, customer assistance at the sale, plant care, and clean-up. Conservation partners from the local chapter of the Native Plant Society, OSU Master Gardeners, the Greater Yamhill Watershed Council, along with our district staff, also provided brochures and information about uses of native plants, natural resource management, watershed enhancement, gardening, and other related topics. The district also received donations of equipment and supplies from the Palmer Creek Fruit Company of Dayton, Stoller Family Estate, and the local Wilco in McMinnville. The district’s staff of eight regular employees prepared for, and worked the sale, along with two additional part-time employees. Several of the conservation district directors also volunteered time to help with the sale over the three days. We appreciated the opportunity to partner with the Yamhill County Historical Society and hold the event at the Heritage Center.

Larry Ojina
Executive Director of YSWCD

Historic Walking Tour of Downtown McMinnville

The McMinnville Downtown Association is offering a guided tour of historic downtown McMinnville with preservationist Rebecca Quandt.

Saturday March 5th
Three tours: 10am, 1pm & 4pm

Reservations 503-472-3605 or info@downtownmcminnville.com
Tours last approximately 1.5 hours, space is limited to 15 people per tour, tours are free with a suggested donation of $15 per person.

Digitized Oregon Images Posted by Library

The New York Public Library has released some 180,000 out-of-copyright items from its Digital Collections as high resolution downloads. Among the items are hundreds of Oregon items, including stereographs and programs. If you love old pictures, you will really enjoy this website!

Stupendous Log-Raft, containing millions of feet—a Camp’s year’s work, profit $20,000—Columbia River, Oregon—From the NYPL Digital Collection
www.digitalcollections.nypl.org
## Historic Lafayette Museum

605 Market Street  
P.O. Box 484  
Lafayette, OR 97127  
**Hours:**  
Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10-4  
Or by appointment  
503-864-2308

## Yamhill Valley Heritage Center

11275 SW Durham Ln.  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
**Hours:**  
Saturday 10-3  
Contact: 503-435-9700

### Upcoming Events
- April 9—Farm Fest  
- April 10—General Meeting  
- April 13—Board Meeting  
- June 19—Father's Day at the Heritage Center  
- June 25—Garden Party at the Lafayette Museum

### Event Locations
- March 9—Board Meeting 5:30 pm—Lafayette Museum  
- March 13—General Meeting 1:30 pm—Heritage Center

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### March General Meeting

Karen Berkey Huntsberger author of *Waiting for Peace: The Journals & Correspondence of a World War II Medic*

Karen Berkey Huntsberger grew up with a father who was excited about life, found joy in simple things, and discovered beauty everywhere. Seventeen years after her father passed away, his war journals and letters came to light. In 2009, Karen began the process of researching and compiling his journals and letters with historical Army reports, maps, family correspondence, and period photographs. The resulting book provides a close-up view of the impact World War II had on one family that was, like so many others, *Waiting for Peace.*
A Look Back in History—Sunday May 31st, 1959

Welcome to the Matheny Monument Dedication Service
Sunday May 31st, 1959

Believing that it is important to preserve for the future generations an enduring record of our pioneer past, the Hewitt Family Association has sponsored the erection of a bronze plaque commemorating the establishment of the Ferry Service at Wheatland in the year 1844 by Captain Daniel Matheny who had come to Oregon with the first wagon train the previous year.

This map has been prepared to acquaint you with some of the places in the vicinity of the Wheatland Ferry in Yamhill County, Oregon which are of great significance in early Oregon history.

I. MATHENY MONUMENT. Site of the river port of Atchison which came to be known as Wheatland. The Ferry boat the “Daniel Matheny IV” which was christened and placed in service this April.

II. The site of JASON LEE’S ORIGINAL MISSION which he established in 1834. A monument erected at the mission site is not now accessible by automobile.

III. The site of GEORGE GAY’S HOUSE which was the first brick dwelling in the Oregon Territory west of the Rockies. D.A.R. marker along highway 221 is 1.4 miles south of the State Park.

IV. MAUD WILLIAMSON STATE PARK.

V. HOPEWELL CEMETERY. Where Daniel Matheny and at least six generations of his descendants are buried. His grave and that of his wife are at the top of the hill enclosed by an iron fence.

VI. GEORGE GAY HOUSE REPLICA. In the front yard of the Howard Stephens home is a small model of the Gay house and it is built of the original brick.

VII. HENRY HEWITT DONATON LAND CLAIM Monument. This marker is 1/2 mile north of Grand Island Junction. Nine sons were born to Henry and Elizabeth Matheny Hewitt, daughter of Daniel after their arrival in Oregon. Their first child, a daughter, was a baby when they crossed the plains in 1843.
This Month In History—March

March 1, 1961—President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, an organization sending young American volunteers to developing countries to assist with health care, education and other basic human needs.

March 3, 1913—A women’s suffrage march in Washington D.C. was attacked by angry onlookers while police stood by. The march occurred the day before Woodrow Wilson’s inauguration. Many of the 5,000 women participating were spat upon and struck in the face as a near riot ensued. Secretary of War Henry Stimson then ordered soldiers from Fort Myer to restore order.

March 5, 1770—The Boston Massacre occurred as a group of rowdy Americans harassed British soldiers who then opened fire, killing five and injuring six. The first man killed was Crispus Attucks, an African American. British Captain Thomas Preston and eight of his men were arrested and charged with murder. Their trial took place in October, with colonial lawyer John Adams defending the British. Captain Preston and six of his men were acquitted. Two others were found guilty of manslaughter, branded, then released.

March 10, 1862—The first issue of U.S. government paper money occurred as $5, $10 and $20 bills began circulation.

March 23, 1775—Patrick Henry ignited the American Revolution with a speech before the Virginia convention in Richmond, stating, “I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!”

March 25, 1911—A raging fire erupted inside a garment factory in New York City killing 123 young women employed as low-paid seamstresses, along with 23 men. The fast-spreading flames engulfed the 8th and 9th floors of the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in lower Manhattan in just a few minutes. About 50 of the victims had jumped to their deaths rather than perish from the flames. The sensational tragedy spurred national interest concerning the rights of mostly immigrant women workers of the New York garment industry who labored long hours six or seven days a week in cramped, dangerous conditions for about $5 weekly pay.

March Birthdays

Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. Bell and his father were involved in teaching deaf persons to speak. Bell developed an interest in the vibrating membrane as a method of electrically transmitting sound. His very first sentence spoken on the newly invented telephone on March 10, 1876, was to his assistant, “Mister Watson, come here, I want you.”

Albert Einstein (1879-1955) was born in Ulm, Germany. His theory of relativity led to new ways of thinking about time, space, matter and energy. He received a Nobel Prize in 1921 and emigrated to the U.S. in 1933 where he was an outspoken critic of Nazi Germany. Believing the Nazis might develop an atomic bomb, he warned President Roosevelt and urged the development of the U.S. Atomic bomb.

George Pullman (1831-1897) The railroad car builder was born in Brocton, New York. He improved railroad sleeping accommodations, developing the folding upper berth and lower berth designs. His company went on to become the biggest railroad car building organization in the world.

Wyatt Earp (1848-1929) was born in Monmouth, Illinois. He became a legendary figure in the Wild West as a lawman and gunfighter, best known for the shootout at the O.K Corral in 1881, in which the Earp brothers (Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan) fought and defeated the Ike Clanton gang.

Oregon’s 157th Birthday Celebration

Joanne Watts and the Genealogy Society members welcomed guests to a room filled with cake, punch and stories of Yamhill County families.

A family from just down the street Lafayette, with there 7 year old daughter, stopped by for a visit. We reflected on youth, our future, and the hope that this room turning the pages of the 1947 Mac High yearbook looking for her friends. We shared stories of her her 1947 and my 1984 graduation from the same High School. We didn’t share any dates, any numbers, no data at all, just stories and the familiar, wonderful smell of those old yellowed yearbook pages.

Sarah Miller lead a game of Oregon state symbol Jeopardy with us and we’re certain the Dave Rucker was the winner. "Alex, I’ll take state soil for 200".

Cynthia gave a tour of the Polling Church steeple and we could only stand in silence and imagine. That’s part of the attraction to YCHS and what keeps us coming; it’s time like these, FEELING Yamhill County History.

David Rucker
Volunteer Coordinator

By The History Place

www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/march.htm
6. SPIRIT OF TURPENTINE
This elixir was ingested to kill intestinal parasites—and hopefully not their human host. Turpentine still has modern medicinal uses, but usually in chest rubs (Vicks, for example) and not drinkable medicines.

7. GIANT POWER HEIDELBERG ELECTRIC BELT
Suffering from a nervous disease? Infertility? A “weakness peculiar to men?” Then this electric belt may be for you! In cases of sexual weakness, “a cure is certain.” This belt promises “the best, most reliable, most harmless yet powerful, cheapest cure possible.” Just shock yourself back to health!

8. NITRIC ACID
Though nitric acid has some medicinal purposes when used with extreme caution—from addressing potassium deficiencies to its use as a cauterizing or diuretic agent—it’s also a highly poisonous substance. The National Library of Medicine suggests seeking medical attention if you so much as inhale any fumes from nitric acid. However, in 1902, it was listed as a homeopathic medicine.

9. THE SET OF MCKINLEY ASSASSINATION SLIDES
Though this times isn’t particularly dangerous, it is particularly curious. You could order a lecture set of slides for your Stereopticon (a home slide projector) depicting “realistic views of the assassination,” including images of McKinley’s attacker “taken within ten minutes of his capture by the police.” Who needs Tarantino movies when you can view real footage of a national tragedy?

10. OPIUM
Marketed as a homeopathic remedy, opium was available by mail order to your doorstep. If you happened to form an addiction, never fear—you could always order more!

11. THE TOILET MASK
At first glance, a toilet mask doesn’t sound so bad. But this mask doesn’t use soothing cucumber extracts to beautify the complexion—it’s an “acid cured” rubber mask coated with “healing agents” meant to eradicate “freckles, liver spots, and other facial blemishes.” Who needs microdermabrasion when you can just use trace amounts of acid?

Information and pictures (except for the 1897 catalog from Amazon.com) were obtained by the Bounty Edition reprint of the 1902 Sears, Roebuck Catalogue.

Written by Laura Steadham Smith
And found on www.mentalfloss.com
Students, armature and professional artists are invited. All photography must be taken of subjects in Yamhill Valley and the surrounding area. For details and registration form, go to www.yamhillcountyhistory.org or contact Art Show Coordinator Steve Singleton at (971) 237-9314 or stv.sngltn@gmail.com

Farm Fest, to be held April 9, 2016, will include an “Agriculture in Art” photography contest in conjunction with the plowing competition and other activities. “Agriculture in Art” is a photography competition hosted by the Yamhill Valley Camera Club displaying photos in four categories:

1. People
2. Animals
3. Agriculture/Farm
4. Agriculture/Winery

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
Farm Fest &
Plowing Competition

Saturday, April 9, 2016
Largest Plowing Competition on the West Coast with Draft Animals

Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
10:00 am—4:00 pm
11275 SW Durham Lane, McMinnville, Oregon
(Intersection of Hwy. 18 & Durham Lane)

- Rare opportunity to watch 20+ teams of draft horses & mules in a plowing competition, see demonstrations & meet the teamsters
- Plowing, Parade of Teams, Awards
- Opening Ceremonies & Flag Raising by United Veterans Honor Guard 10:00 am
- Sawmill, Blacksmith, Horseshoeing Demonstrations
- Special Exhibits & Demonstrations of Horse-drawn Equipment
- “Agriculture in Art” Photography Contest
- Pioneer Kids’ Area with Hands-on Activities & Animals
- Historical Displays, Tours of Museum and 1880’s Hutchcroft School
- Old-Time Music, Food, & More!
- Come back for the harvest at Harvest Fest—August 13 & 14, 2016

$5 admission—Kids 12 & under FREE

For more information: 503.434.0490 or www.yamhillcountyhistory.org
2016 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 2016

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I AM A NEW MEMBER

I AM A RENEWING MEMBER

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