The Yamhill County Historical Society (YCHS) is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit educational and public service organization engaged to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County.

May 2019

Readers: This is our last issue for this season. We’ll be back September 2019 after Summer Break!

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

Brand New Event Scheduled for June at the Heritage Center

You are Invited

HAY DAY
and Pancake Breakfast
SAT., JUNE 22, 2019

Mowing, raking, and baling, using mules hitched to horse-drawn vintage equipment. “View demonstrations on a variety of ways to put up loose hay the old way”

Demos 9:00-11:00 and 12:30-2:30

If you haven’t yet seen Wayne Beckwith and his team, prepare to be amazed. When Wayne is working the fields at our Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, you’ll get to witness a master muleskinner in his natural environment. This Hay Day isn’t just another “sit and watch” kind of demonstration. Wayne and his mules will be right in front of you, talking to you, whinnying to you, and answering any question you have and some you didn’t even know you had until that very moment. This is a One of a Kind event!

Oh, did I mention BREAKFAST on top of all of this!!!!!!!

2019 Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Scheduled for May

As it has been in past years, the May General Meeting will be our 2019 YCHS Volunteer Appreciation Party. All are invited to help us thank our volunteers, sponsors and helping hands across the county. Always a fun event, held at the Heritage Center, you'll connect with your YCHS community and share stories from the past year or maybe even the past decades. We will have door prizes, 2018 program updates and of course dinner. The Kelchner's are getting the BBQ menu together, and your Board of Directors is practicing their server skills to bring desert right to your table.

RSVP is requested so we can get everyone a seat at the table.

Email the Historical Society with your RSVP or call the volunteer number shown on the invite to the left.

See you at the Heritage Center on May 14!

Wayne Beckwith and team during Farm Fest 2019.
Our 2019 Farm Fest drew over 1500 visitors, guests and volunteers. The weather forecast was grim but the hearty stock of Yamhill County, both people and equestrian, came out to share our heritage. As so often happens with the YCHS, something good is always on our side when we do the good work. Today, it poured until the gates opened, it was beautiful and partly sunny during the event, and the rains came again directly as the gates closed for the day. Thanks to all who joined us and we’ll see you at HARVEST FEST in August!!!!!
Sharing our Amity History and Heritage...

Amity Historical Landmarks Committee to Share Their Story

Voices of Amity- Historical Re-Enactment in Amity

You are invited to a free presentation of Voices of Amity, a historical re-enactment of Amity Pioneer days from numerous volunteers. Hear from Joseph Watt, a city founder who was the first global marketer; Gabriel Walling, a War of 1812 veteran and member of the territorial legislature; and Carolyn Buffum who nursed a Native American back to health. These and others will recall experiences from days gone by and entertain you with their stories as you learn about local history in this fast paced performance by local actors.

Eve Silverman-

Two performances will be held on Friday, May 10th
2:15 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Amity Pioneer Cemetery,
Woodland Way between 5th and 6th Streets, Amity.

http://www.instagram.com/visitamity

YCHS Volunteers Preparing to Inventory Artifacts at the Historic Poling Church

Below, some of our most knowledgeable and entrusted volunteers, Kim Courtin, Karen Sitton-Saxberg, Alex Bott, Tom Cattrall, Mickey Anderson, and Michael Hafner strategize this integral piece of our Mission to Preserve and Protect. This is an awesome team.
Yes, it’s my favorite event and my favorite time of year, all rolled into one at the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center! If you haven’t been, it’s hard to explain the feeling one gets from oats flyin’ in the wind from the Thresher, to the smell of the Allis Chalmers firing up after a year in Storage, to the taste of good ol’ fashioned home cooking from the Kelchner Family Kitchen. Everything is running during Harvest Fest; the mills, the school, the ag equipment, the Steamers and the Player Piano. If you have been to Harvest Fest, we know you’ll be back to see us this year.
The future of our Historical Society proved to be alive and well at Farm Fest 2019. Learning, sharing, experiencing and teaching our history and heritage are the keys to the future of our history. Oh yeah, and FUN too...

Amanda Hill grew up on our 1912 Aultman Taylor. Now she shares her story with others at Farm Fest.
Call to order: President Charles H. called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. All present save Roy Carter, Jack Maxwell, Pam Watts. Guest: Raylinda Price

Motion #1
Approval of the previous Board minutes as submitted. Unanimous

Committee Reports:
- A & E Committee: Great turnout at Farm Fest, 1523 in attendance, 7 new memberships, approx. $13k gross $11k net. Volunteer Appreciation May 14th, Hay Day June 22nd.
- Rentals: There are a lot of rentals on the books, some two per day.
- Media Committee: Michael would like specific content for the website.
- Volunteer/Membership Committee: Dave and Alex are organizing a Poling Church meeting with key people to create a plan and timeline for moving items to the H.C.
- Election Committee: There are several Officer positions that will need to be filled at the end of the year.

Motion #1
Sarah M. moved and Todd H. seconded to approve the Committee reports as submitted. Unanimous

Motion #2
Peter D. moved and Sarah M. seconded to authorize up to $500 for the purchase of a digital camera for YCHS use. Unanimous

Treasurer’s Report:
Farm Fest was a big success, donations for the steam tractor are coming in.

President’s Report:
The employment contract for Raylinda has been approved and signed.

Motion #3
Stan P. moved and Sarah M. seconded to approve the Treasurer’s and President’s reports. Unanimous

Unfinished Business:
- 40ft containers are in place, a fifth container may be moved to Lafayette inside the storage building to be used as a fire proof storage for documents and computer servers.

New Business:
- Michael H. would like to attend the Oregon Heritage Summit.
- YCHS will be having a float in the UFO parade on May 18th, and possibly something at Turket Rama.

Motion #4
Peter D. moved and Sarah M. seconded to approve $400 for Michael H. to attend the Oregon Heritage Summit. Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm

Respectfully submitted, Alex Botten, YCHS Secretary
Edited for print by Rucker
John D. Tessman bought the #1 1/2 DeLoach sawmill in 1920. It had been through a fire, so John had to restore it to a usable condition. The manufacture date at the DeLoach Mill Manufacturing Company in Birmingham is listed as 1900 to 1905. The original patent date was 1890.

Mr. Tessman set up the mill at his Father-in-law’s Beringer farm at Gibbs on Chehalem Mountain, Northeast of Newberg Oregon. The Tessmans and Beringers powered the mill with a steam engine as they sawed lumber from timber cut on their own hillside farm. They built outbuildings and milled for their Yamhill County neighbors as well.

In 1937, the mill was moved to John and Bertha (Beringer) Tessman’s farm lying adjacent to the Beringers, and there they milled lumber to build their own home. At this location, the 48 inch blade was powered by a 1928 Packard engine and later by a WWII surplus Cadillac tank engine. The mill was last used on this farm in 1954.

On the wish list for our Yamhill Valley Heritage Center was a vintage sawmill. In 2007 the children of John and Bertha responded, offering this very mill. It was disassembled by Heritage Center volunteers and slowly they replaced the wooden parts and set up shop on the Heritage Center grounds before the Center was even built. A great part of the restoration job was done by the Tessman brothers, Alan and Dean, and by Chuck Kadell and Donnie King, with many hands on deck.

By 2009 the mill was ready for the crew to operate. The dedication by Alan, Dean, and Owen Tessman, along with their sister Esther Pannier, took place at the 2009 Harvest Fest. Today, the power for the mill is a 43hp 1946 John Deere Model W engine donated by the Bob Scharf family. The mill can handle up to a 28 inch diameter log that can be up to 16 feet long. By the way, there is always a need for donated logs to saw at the mill.

Lumber milled today is used for Heritage Center purposes. Slab wood is burned in the fire box of our steam tractors for power, and surplus is sold for firewood with funds returned to the mill treasury. The present sawmill Chairman and Head Sawyer is Jerry Tessman, the grandson of John D, and he will train anyone interested in learning.

Given a new life as a teaching tool, the mill proves to be a popular attraction at our events. A wonderful second life for this mill thanks to volunteers at the Yamhill County Historical Society.
Our Annual YCHS Raffle—Buy Your Raffle Tickets at Every Event or Any Day the Museum is Open!!!!!!!

RAFFLE
$3 per ticket or 4/$10

Beautiful Handmade QUILT
Made by Gone to Pieces Quilt Association

$500 VALUE
Rustic Country Style
Queen Size

Drawing to be held Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019, 4 pm at Handmade Holidays event.
Need not be present to win

Yamhill County Historical Society Presents
Father’s Day
Sunday, June 16, 2019

Special Celebration for FATHER’S DAY
Sasparilla, Arm Wrestling,
A Game of Catch with an 1866 Bat & Ball,
and so much more!

Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
(1220 SW Durham Lane, McMinnville, Oregon)
10am - 4pm
Admission is FREE - donations gladly accepted
www.YamhillCountyHistory.org • 503.472.2842 •

RAFFLE
$3 per ticket or 4/$10

TOMY John Deere steel stake wagon
Value $230

Drawing to be held 4:00 pm, Sunday, August 18, 2019
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
Need not be present to win

Yamhill County Historical Society PRESENTS
HARVEST FEST
August 17 and 18, 2019
Saturday and Sunday 10-4pm
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, McMinnville, Oregon
(Intersection of SWY 18 and Emerick Lane)

5 & 6 General Admission
Kids under 12 FREE

Harvesting the crop using vintage farm equipment, horses & mules
Pioneer Kids’ Activities, Pedal Tractors, & Petting Animals
Working Sawmill & Blacksmith Shops
Stagecoach Rides
Historical Displays & Photos
Tours of Museum & 1880’s Hutchcroft School
Old-Time Music, Food, Vendors & MORE!

For information visit www.YamhillCountyHistory.org
email: events@YamhillCountyHistory.org; call: 503-472-2842

Partnersing Sponsor: NORTHWEST LOGGING SUPPLY
Friends of the Museum Sponsor: Wilco
Visit our new Website for a full color CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

2019 Match
Saturday
September
14th

Vintage baseball returns to the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center for another season. The McMinnville Gristmillers Baseball Club of the Yamhill County Historical Society is coming back this summer for Season #5. We can't think of a more enjoyable way to share and preserve the history of baseball than playing the game the way it was in 1866. Our players wear no gloves, the "mitt" wasn't invented yet; the ball is caught spectacularly barehanded. We play in our Heritage Center oatfield with hand-floured base lines and burlap bags for bases. The neighboring livestock commonly join us out in rightfield. 1866 rules are strictly followed and enforced with fines from the arbiter (called umpire today). The fine for spitting is 2 bits. Same for cussing or sweating. It's a gentlemen's game after all.

We like this paragraph from Historian Greg Shine, "base ball became very popular in the Willamette Valley in 1866. Challenge matches were organized, and families and friends made the day trip up and down the rivers on ferry boats, accompanied by city bands, to watch the game, picnic, and enjoy the day together."

You can come enjoy the day with us as player if you are of an average skill level. If you're not a player, the fun doesn't stop there. If historical facts are your bag, we need people to walk the baselines educating the fans with baseball trivia. A scorekeeper tally's the runs with chalk and board throughout the match, a snake oil salesman is always selling wares, a good waterboy is essential, peanuts and popcorn must be hurled, and old timey musicians entertain between innings. In 1866 the spectators, "a fine crowd of CRANKS" and are very vocal bunch. All are welcome and period dress is encouraged.

If you'd like to learn more about YOUR McMinnville Gristmillers, email the Captain at volunteercoordinator@yamhillhistoricalsociety.org or "like" the McMinnville Gristmiller Facebook page for updates.

OUR McMinnville Gristmiller Vintage Base Ball Club Returns for Season #5

2019 Match
Saturday
September
14th

Visit our new Website for a full color CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

2019 Dates

January 27
February 24
March 24
April 28
May 26
June 23

July 28
August 25
September 22
October 27
November 17
December 15

*Special 3rd Sunday Holiday Dates

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Welcome to our newest members since our last newsletter... a warm “howdy” to you all.

Remember, if you haven’t renewed your YCHS membership for 2019, your dues are now past due. Please send your renewal in as soon as possible, so you don’t lose out on all the benefits your membership gives you.

Contact Membership Services at membership@yamhillcountyhistory.org.

Also, please remember to let us know if you are away on vacation or gone for an extended period of time. The Post Office will not forward your newsletter, so we have to pay to get it back if you’re not at your home address.

Thanks so much for your continued support.

Membership Coordinator
Joan Bonfield

YCHS Membership Services now available online

Thanks to our new Website Administration Chairperson, Jack Maxwell III, your Historical Society now has a brand new, active and live, YCHS website. This site can now process your membership renewal and sign on your family and friends as new members of our Society. It’s easy and took this luddite only a few to renew for 2019.

https://yamhillcountyhistory.org/about-us/join-today/

Happy Spring!

I have had a great experience as your Membership Coordinator. After almost 8 years in this position, I’ve made a decision to resign and move on to something different. If you aren’t volunteering with the YCHS, please think about finding your niche. In the last eight years I have met so many wonderful, hard-working, helpful people who really care about our Society. You will have fun. You will learn about the history of our area. You will get to meet some amazing people, PLUS, do your share keeping the YCHS the organization we are all proud of.

Joan Bonfield is your new Membership Coordinator. You can contact her at 503-472-1361. Joan has been a long time volunteer at the YCHS. She is an avid miniaturist and right now she’s organizing our antique button collection at the Miller Museum in Lafayette. In her free time, she enjoys evenings sitting at the wood fire.

- Carlene Kadell

www. yamhillcountyhistory.org
Email: info@yamhillcountyhistory.org
volunteercoordinator@yamhillcountyhistory.org
Facebook Group: yamhillcountyhistory.org/fb

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

HISTORIC LAFAYETTE MUSEUM & RESEARCH LIBRARY
605 Market Street,
Lafayette, OR 97127
Saturday Only
10:00am-4:00pm

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

Carlene Kadell and Joan Bonfield
2019 Historical Society Membership Application

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

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.

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<th>Yearly Membership Categories</th>
<th>Dues for 2019 (January 1 - Dec. 31, 2019)</th>
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<td>Senior/Student/Educator</td>
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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 make checks payable to YCHS and return with this printed form to:

Questions? Call Membership Coordinator Joan Bonfield 503-472-1361 or email membership@yamhillcountyhistory.org
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 is the Miller Log Cabin which houses 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.

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We are looking for new volunteers at the Miller Museum in Lafayette. The Miller Museum is one of two locations under the direction of the Yamhill County Historical Society.

Volunteers needed: Wednesdays and Fridays, 3 hour split-shift or full 6 hour shift.

Volunteers will be on hand to personally acquaint you with policies and procedures in our comfortable surroundings - warm in the winter, cool in the summer, kitchen with microwave, refrigerator, toaster oven, coffee, tea & other beverages, bottled water, lunch table. Feel free to come by and for a visit and to see what we’re all about. We are currently open on Saturdays between the hours of 10-4. We can also make arrangement to meet with you at your convenience; to make an appointment please call the Miller Museum at 503-864-2308 or call Chuck & Sharon Rogers at 503-472-6961.