

# The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

October 2006

Hi Everyone,

I had a wonderful time in Nebraska visiting with relatives & friends. The next Laird Family Reunion will be held in 2008 in Estes Park Colorado. I also spent a week in Longmont, Co. with our daughter, Shea. We lived in Co. for about 30 years. I do miss those beautiful mountains but it is good to be back in Oregon.

I want to thank Lorna and Shirley for handling the Historical Meeting while I was gone.

The election should prove very interesting this year. I hope all of you plan on voting. I regret not being here for the program Polk County Historical Society presented at the October meeting. I have heard lots of good things about their museum. We do appreciate their taking time to share information about the construction of the Polk County Museum.

Just a reminder that author Jane Kirkpatrick will be a guest of the McMinnville Library, Linfield College and the Yamhill County Historical Society in January. Watch for more details.

If you remember in the last month's News Letter I suggested that you might want to visit the museum as I would be testing your observation skills. Question: What family is sharing three generations of military uniforms by loaning them to the museum for a current display?

Wishing you a "Happy Halloween". Shirley

## The New Polk County Museum

Our September program was given by four people representing the new Polk County Museum. Georgia Wildfang, their President, joined Pat Smith, Building Committee chair, Jim Wilson, Treasurer and Mike Barber, Publications chair and member of the building committee.

Georgia served as the community spokesperson, speaking before a number of civic groups, drumming up support. Their first cost estimate came in at \$340,000, but it is now insured for \$1,000,000. They have no county tax base. They did have several large donors to give them a good head start. They discovered grant monies are not generally available for brick and mortar.

Their membership went from 150 when they started to about 400 now. They still have lifetime memberships available, at \$250.00. A core group of 30 volunteers keeps their new facility open five days a week. Committee chairs, also known as board members (17 Board members!), run their areas of particular interest or expertise. All of their construction loans are now paid off. Their admission fees help offset operating costs, which are very low, due to a design using high energy efficiency.

The group recommended that we not make our plans for a new facility too large at the start, saying that instead we should plan for expansion in the future. They have an extensive education program for grade school children wherein the school districts are reimbursed for expenses in bringing the children to the museum.

The prime contractor drew up the plans, and while the initial costs of having an architect go over them for code compliance was estimated to be around \$15,000, in the end they were only billed about \$5,000. Their structural engineer donated \$5,000 worth of his time. Many local businesses stepped up to help with reduced costs and volunteer labor, including the plumber, electrician and the concrete supplier.

There were dozens of questions from the audience, and the group was more than willing to answer each and every one of them. The largest grant they received was from the Oregon Community Foundation, in the amount of \$10,000. Their volunteers basically run all aspects of their current program.

We thank these ladies and gentlemen for their time and effort in driving to McMinnville. We hope their experiences in building a museum can be looked at as we continue to plan our new facility.



Jim, Mike, Pat & Georgia

*The Yamhill County Historical Society is a nonprofit tax exempt educational and public service corporation established to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County*

**OFFICERS - 2006****President**

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472-7328

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**Newsletter**

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**Car Pool Coordinator**

Joanne Watts  
835-5893

**Librarian**

Jean Sartor  
472-6312

**MUSEUM HOURS:**

**July and August:**  
Fridays and  
Saturdays. 10 a.m. to 4  
p.m. or by appointment

605 Market Street  
Lafayette Oregon  
Phone: 864-2308

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YCHS

Email: [yamhillhistory@onlinemac.com](mailto:yamhillhistory@onlinemac.com)

**Thank You to Donors**

A good friend of the museum, Virginia Lucas, donated several articles to the museum in recent months. Virginia, an accomplished quilter, had made several period costumes which she thought might be useful to us. She also donated a Red Cross smock belonging to her good friend, Hazel Shumway. Both friends volunteered regularly at the community blood drawings.

New member, Dr. Harry Chandler donated several interesting books on Oregon history to the museum. These have been added to our growing reference library collection. We encourage members and friends interested in Yamhill County research to visit our library. It is always busy on Wednesdays and Saturdays. (Jean Sartor)

**DAMAGE TO HISTORIC CEMETERY**

The Lafayette Pioneer Cemetery was the victim of vandals with the intent to destroy century old markers. Approximately the first of June it was reported that \$1500 to \$2000 damage was done to stones in the cemetery. According to Debbie Clark there are very few families around who have loved ones buried there who are able to help with the cost of these repairs.

The surrounding area has experienced a huge growth of homes so the quiet country setting is shrinking. Debbie said the Cemetery Association will try to pay for the repairs. She said if anyone would like to donate to this fund to help restore the stones she would be glad to hear from you. Her phone number is 503-434-2829. (Shirley V.)

**NEW MUSEUM PROJECT**

The second of three Workshops was held on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>. We are working with the architect to enlarge the plans from the 5 acres to 12 acres. Consideration was given to the arrangement of rooms in the planned buildings. Phase 1 consists of the agricultural building and enlarging the existing building. This will be our major concern in the upcoming year.

Also, the moving of the Muddy Valley/Eagle Point school building to the new site will proceed. The building is in serious disrepair and much reconstruction will be needed.

You are invited to attend any of these meetings which are held at the museum in Lafayette. Check with any member of the board or planning committee for meeting times. (Shirley V.)

**Board Meeting highlights**

The meeting was called to order by V.P. President Lorna Grauer. Present were: Marjorie Owens, Annita Linscheid, Kathy Peck, Ken Williams, Gloria Lutz, Lorna Grauer, Eileen Lewis and Shirley McDaniel.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ken reported a beginning balance of \$10,251.39, deposits of \$568.08, and payments of \$636.73, with an ending balance of \$10,182.74. **Correspondence Secretary:** Marjorie reported twenty nine pieces of correspondence.

**Membership Secretary:** Kathy reported she has received all but forty membership renewals based on the July 2007 prorated renewal. After those who are overdue past three months are removed from the membership list only about seventeen remain that have not prorated their membership to the July schedule. **Museum/Library Report:**

Things are running smoothly in the museum. We have been receiving a number of new donations of artifacts. Preservation: Work progressing on photo scans, and data base entry, estimated nearly half done. Cook Book: Lorna reports three submissions for the cookbook to date. Old Business: Genealogical Society: A group from the Genealogical Society will be moving their shelves into the log museum this Thursday. Sprinkler System: Nothing to report on getting the sprinkler system fixed.

**New Business:**

**Janice Marschner Proposal:** It was agreed on by the Board that policies need to be put in place concerning use of photographic images owned by YCHS before Janice's proposal is addressed. This will need to be researched and well thought out. **Suggested News letter Changes:** Several ideas were suggested for the newsletter. Dan noted the fact that these were from newsletters published quarterly by various museums, and that it would be much easier to put together a six or eight page quarterly than trying to do so on a monthly basis like our newsletter.

**New Complex: Well, Transfer of Property:** The well drilling has been scheduled to start in November. After reviewing the letter from the McPhillips' attorney, it was decided to take no action until an agreement can be reached. The next workshop will be October 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 in the log building. Annita Linscheid, Secretary

I want to thank those who've taken time to pay their membership dues based on the July due date. Several mistakes were caught along the way. This was a huge endeavor which was made much easier with membership cooperation. As of today only 17 members remain on the old schedule. If you are one of these you can call me to find out the amount needed to bring you to July of next year.

Membership Secretary, Kathy Peck

By Jim Lockett

Thomas McBride was born in 1777, in Guilford County, North Carolina. His mother, Mary Crawford McBride, was a sister to Andrew Jackson's mother, making Thomas a first cousin of Andrew Jackson. He spent his youth in North Carolina and Tennessee and was ordained a Baptist Minister. He married Eliza Womack in 1796; the next ten years were ones of complete devotion to his wife and work. He honed his skills as a frontier preacher and became highly respected by all who knew him. During this marriage, he and Eliza had five children - including our own Dr. James McBride. After 10 years of marriage, he lost Eliza. He began making some changes in his life. He met Nancy, married her and they had almost 40 years of marriage and one child. As the frontier moved west, he moved with it and soon was preaching in Missouri.

Reverend McBride began to feel that those who obeyed the Lord become "Christians" and were not part of any denomination. Therefore, he left the Baptist church and struck out on his own. He soon became acquainted with others that felt the same way - especially the Reverend Barton Stone and John Mulkey - so they began to promote a Restoration Movement that would meet their beliefs. During this time, they met Alexander Campbell, a vibrant divinity school president with a school in Bethany, Virginia. This school was advocating the same beliefs as the restoration movement was preaching. Campbell's influence spread the new movement far and wide. They soon organized and became the "Disciples of Christ". Because of Campbell's work, the "Christians" were generally referred to as "Campbellites." Still today, historians use the "Campbellite" moniker when referring to these "Christians." They do not believe in an earthly leader but answer only to Christ.

The 1865 editorial in the Baltimore American stated: "The growth of this body of Christians, sometimes called Campbellites, is unparalleled in the annals of religious history...during the past thirty of forty years, they have made more rapid progress than any other denomination in the United States."

Reverend Thomas McBride soon established the Salt Creek Christian Church, which was reputed to be the oldest Christian Church west of the Mississippi River. By 1842, he was well known in the Christian Church circles. A notice appearing in the *Millennial Harbinger* of Dover, Missouri reported that on August 17, 1842: "The good cause of our redeemer is still on the onward march in this Western Country. The brethren have just closed a protracted meeting at Dover where forty-four made the good confession and were buried with the Lord in Baptism. Some five or six of the number were from the Presbyterian ranks, and one from the Methodists, and seven by letter, making in all fifty-one. The preaching brethren were father McBride (that old pioneer in the good Cause in Upper Missouri,) and T.N. Gaines...." And so it was that Thomas made his mark.

In 1846 Nancy passed away. As all the children were off on their own, Thomas was left as a lonely man. He was 69 years old, he was losing his eyesight and most of his family had moved to Oregon. Subsequently, he decided to go find his loved ones in Oregon! Approaching 70, Thomas Crawford McBride bought three good horses - one for him to ride and two for packs - and set off for Oregon! Joining him were Andrew and Ellen Wright, their son James and Elisha Bedwell - all headed for Eden, bringing only what they could with the packhorses. They rode 2,000 miles in 41 days. It was September 13, 1847 when they arrived at the James McBride's residence west of what is now Carlton.

John McBride wrote, "Early in September after a day of rain, which had moistened the parched earth and cleared the skies of autumn haze, a little party of five on horseback, with one or two pack animals, rode around the point of the lofty hill which fronted our house.

"My father was absent, but the family were at their usual duties. We saw that the parties were travelers, and that they had dismounted at the house. My mother hurried over the few yards between where we were and the door, and I followed full of curiosity.

"My elder sister had brought seats before we arrived, and there seated quietly was my grandfather, Thos. In addition, two other, both of whom I recognized, and one woman and a little boy about two years old. Without one word of their having even contemplated the journey, or having started from their Missouri home, they had thus suddenly come upon us.

"The Lady, Mrs. Ellen Wright, had performed the same feat while her husband and herself, seating the little boy on a pillow in front of them, had by turns carried him all that long distance. It was of such stuff that the early pioneer was made."

In 1851, Thomas married for the third time: a lady named Ann Wright, who was able to give him the support and help he needed as he farmed his 393 acre claim. Of course, he continued to preach (now 77 years old) even though he was too blind to read. He knew the Bible well enough to quote most any passage he needed in his work. He made a significant mark on the early days of Yamhill County.

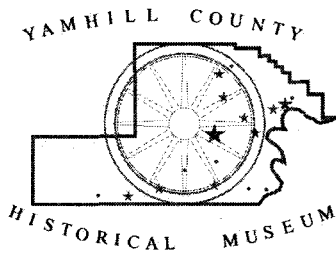
Finally, he died in 1857, at age 80, and was buried in a cemetery that he had donated from his farm. The cemetery is known as the "McBride Cemetery." By the 1990's the writing on his stone was barely legible so a group calling themselves "His Spiritual Heirs" placed a new stone. It reads: THOMAS CRAWFORD McBRIDE July 28, 1777 - April 25, 1857. "Pioneer Christian Preacher among the first in Oregon Territory."



# YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 484

Lafayette Oregon 97127



YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
EST. 1957

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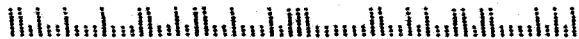
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## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Paid July each year

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15
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<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$50+
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$100+
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Builder	\$250+
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Benefactor	\$500+

Please make checks payable to the Yamhill County Historical Society. New members can prorate dues monthly from the above table. Membership dues, artifact donations and gifts are tax deductible.

Members receive the Westside newsletter and access to our research library free of charge. We are an all volunteer organization, and are constantly on the lookout for new helpers. If you can assist us in any way, financially or with your time or talents, it will be greatly appreciated. If you are not sure if you have paid your annual membership dues in July, please contact Kathy Peck at 472-6562. Rates Effective May 31, 2002.

## Calendar of Events

Our next regular monthly meeting will be held 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 14th, at the Yamhill County Public Works Auditorium on Lafayette Avenue in McMinnville. Our program this month will be, "Oregon Donation Land Claims... history and researching" by Dan Linscheid, Yamhill County Surveyor.

► Election of Officers: December 12, 2006

**New Members/Renewals:** We welcome new members **John Budan, Dorothy Comuntzis, Robert Burden and Patti Bonofiglio**. Thanks for supporting our organization. We invite you to attend our meetings, visit our museum and become more involved in our local history!