SEPTEMBER 1985

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

MEETING: PICNIC, Tuesday, September 10, 6 p.m., Shelter Area of Wortman Park, McMinnville. Bring table service and friends, enjoy yourselves.

The mailing list has been revised. Mail dues to the Financial Secretary: $5. per individual membership, $10. to affiliate with State Hist. Society.

The Museum now has a new supply of Donation Land Claims. Will soon have a new supply of Geo. F. Walker's A Slice of Country Life, his interesting recollections of a small boy in this county the first part of this century.

MUSEUM NOTES: We have been busy at the Museum: donations received include a complete large spinning wheel, careras, a compass, muff and shoes. Also a family tree picture of the Newby family, with locks of hair as well as statistics. . . The "News-Register" pictures have helped advertise our collection. A Dr. Taylor from Virginia was here researching Ewing Young. We don't have his grave sight, but wish we did . . . I displayed antiques from the Museum at the Mid-Wmette Valley Sr. Heritage Days' kickoff luncheon at the Sr. Center; a beautiful lunch and program with about 45 present . . . I have missed Marie Winters, who has worked with me since we started the Museum in '69. Recording, marking and placing articles has been a great joy to both of us. Marie has been in and out of the hospital with a very difficult problem, and now I feel very much alone. Our hope is that her health will soon be improved. My thanks to all who have helped during the four days each week this summer at the Museum.

Roma Sitton

THE FIRST SOLDIERS IN OREGON (from W. L. Toney's handwritten little notebook filled with his reminiscences of early Oregon.) See reverse page. Ruth Stoller

Helen Webb

OFFICERS, 1985

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Museum Roma Sitton
Board: Austin Bowen, Ed Roghair
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MEETINGS: First Tuesday of each month

MUSEUM HOURS (summer) Wednesdays thru Sundays, 1 - 4.
Drop back to weekends the last week in September.

To the Editor:

People who are interested in local history will want to see the spring edition of the Oregon Historical Society Quarterly. Among other interesting articles is an article about former Yamhill County Surveyor Captain Charles Handley.

It has been suggested that the Handley home between Baker and Cows streets on Handley Street be made into a memorial park.

HELEN WEBB
1849 was the year that Zachary Taylor the President of the United States ordered soldiers to Oregon. They got as far as Fort Hall and provisions gave out. The Government appointed J.W. Scott as captain of volunteers to take these soldiers supplies. There were about 30 or more of the volunteers. They used ox-teams and wagons. I remember Bill Martin sold them an ox-team and wagon. I can only remember three of the men, James Beashom (Beauchamp), William Rodgers, and Pliny Garrison.

They reached the Fort and delivered the provisions in time to save some emigrants and the soldiers of starvation. On their return they had some trouble with Indians near Mud Lake, Nevada. Their company was mostly boys or young men. They saw two Indians carrying an antelope and as they were out of fresh meat the Captain of the company decided to take the oldest of the men which was Pliny Garrison and leave the rest of the company with their teams in a secluded place and overtake the Indians and buy their game from them. When they reached them they seemed very friendly. The Indians had their bows and arrows but did not seem to (know) the use of the men's guns so they wanted to examine the guns. The men would not let them take the guns out of their hands but tried to show them how they were used but they were not satisfied and grabbed the guns but the men were able to overcome them in the scuffle. So the Indians ran and began shooting with their bows and arrows. The men were able to dodge most of the arrows. Pliny Garrison shot one of the Indians and had to reload his gun. On turning to look for a large rock, which he knew was behind him, in order to find shelter for reloading, the Indian shot him with a poisoned arrow in the shoulder which caused his death in a short time. Captain Scott had several scalp wounds which were very shallow and he recovered from the poison. Some of the company that was left to hold their horses in concealment, heard the report of the gun, went to them and taken them in to camp. Pliny Garrison was buried in the center of the crossroads, one leading to Oregon, the other to California. The ox-teams were driven over the grave several times in order to destroy indications of a grave for fear the Indians would take the body up.

These soldiers were the first U.S. Troops stationed at Vancouver and one company of them deserted that (fall) or the first of the winter and started for the California mines and were taken in Southern Oregon. On my way home from the mines in June 1850, I saw their camping grounds in several places.

(Pliny Garrison was married to Martha Rogers, a sister of Mrs. Charles Fen-dall and Mrs. N.K. Sitton. After Pliny's death Martha married John Carlin. A daughter of Wm L. Toney married Pliny's son, Lewis, in 1871. It is a descendent of this daughter who owns the original notebook.)