Newsletter Distribution Update:
The WestSide is now a bi-monthly newsletter distributed each September, November, January, March, May and July.

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Upcoming Events for your Calendar

VINTAGE BASE BALL
Saturday September 14, 2-4 pm
Heritage Center, McMinnville

TREASURES IN THE ATTIC
Saturday, September 21 10am-5pm
PRESENTATION AND POTLUCK
October 13, Sunday, 1-2:30 pm
"Blacksmithing Today"

A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
HALLOWEEN TOURS
Saturday October 26, 5-8 pm

VETERANS' DAY SPECIAL EXHIBITS
Fri and Sat, Nov 8-9, 10am-4pm

HANDMADE HOLIDAYS BAZAAR
December 7-8, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 12-4pm

All events take place at the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center Museum
11275 SW Durham Lane,

Contact us:
⇒ Website: yamhillcountyhistory.org
⇒ Email: info@yamhillcountyhistory.org
⇒ volunteercoordinator@yamhillcountyhistory.org
⇒ Find us on FaceBook—Yamhill County Historical Society
⇒ 503-472-2842
The **Gone to Pieces Quilt Association** has done it again with this beautiful Rustic Country Style Quilt. Handmade, warm and cozy, and it can be yours just in time for the Holidays! Buy your raffle tickets at the Heritage Center or visit the Quilt in person at **BOERSMA’S SEWING CENTER** (203 NE 3rd St, McMinnville) and buy your tickets there in the month of October. The drawing will be held during our Handmade Holiday Bazaar in December.
Visit our new Website for a full color CAL ENDAR OF EVENTS!
yamhillcountyhistory.org

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Activities and Events Team Opportunities

Calling all YCHS members – do you like event planning, decorating, creative thinking, volunteer coordination, just plain old fun, or all of the above? Our Activities and Events Committee is open to all members, and we would love to have you at the table with us planning our “living history” events throughout the year.

Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Heritage Center at 5:30pm. These YCHS volunteers and members come up with the greatest ideas, turn them into activities that fulfill our mission statement, and usually there are cookies.

If you’d like to join us, email volunteercoordinator@yamhillcountyhistory.org or call the Heritage Center at 503-472-2842
Three Years Back and Ten Years Forward

(From a talk given at our Volunteer Celebration this Spring, 2019)

Sometimes, because we are living through it, it might not seem like much is happening or very fast. But it has. A little over a decade ago, the big buildings at the Heritage Center didn’t exist. And look around inside our buildings. Three years ago, we didn’t have a kitchen worthy of the name. Now, we have groups seek us out to rent our space for meetings because our new kitchen exists. There are new tables and chairs too if you haven’t noticed.

It may not be immediately obvious, but we now have an insulated exhibit hall. It makes a big difference. Special kudos to Cliff Watts for that. What a giant job. Also special thanks to Tony Meeker and Carrie Martin for bringing in the grant money to do much of our most recent physical improvements and thanks to the many anonymous donors who also made major contributions, not to mention the restoration and work crews wielding the tools and vehicles to finish things off by hand.

Lighting, security, communications, drainage, sidewalks, and many more systems have all had large upgrades, most within just the past the year. Probably next up is some signage for our native plant gardens along the north side of this building with ultimately a sidewalk and brochures to show it off. And, we are right in the middle of design work for a new entry kiosk that will double as some exhibit and info platform.

Really interesting are some of our long term goals which include some massive developments. Heritage Village for one. A whole Pioneer Village to be built or moved on site near our current one room schoolhouse. Probably first up will be either a fire station or a general store. They will function primarily as exhibit space to tell our story; however, they will have other uses as well, particularly upstairs. We don’t know all the buildings that will be built there just yet, but if anyone would like to step up and see one with your name on it, now would be a good time. Would you perhaps like a bank, a farmhouse, a barn, a band gazebo, a law office, a livery stable, a new “old” car dealership, a photography studio? A 40 foot high fully functioning wind mill? We’re open for ideas. It is literally not cast in concrete yet. Know any architects or designers? We could use the assistance in planning.

Just three years ago, we did not have a single employee. Now we have Raylinda who does the work of at least three plus a cleaning crew contract. Where would we like to be a decade from now? Perhaps an Executive Director and possibly a marketer, a recruiter to give us greater recognition and clout and maybe even more important, a professional curator, at least part time. Why not? If you don’t have ambitious goals, you won’t achieve all that much.

Just three years ago, we did not have a fully functional website. But, we found some grant money to pay for it and tidied up our Facebook sites and Twitter accounts too. The Twitter account is probably less than a year old. It was only about a year ago that we not only erected a windmill on Hwy 18, we mounted an electric welcoming sign on it.

Four years ago we didn’t have a vintage baseball team. Now we have a team, equipment, bleachers, a hot dog stand. And looking ahead, maybe a county wide league. The vintage baseball event is a classic example of one person having a great idea and running with it.

We just had a brand new event in June. Hay Day and Pancake Breakfast. Like the Vintage Baseball games, the Farm Fest plowing competition, the Harvest Fest reaping, the quilting demonstrations, the tatting, the blacksmithing, it was and will be a Living History showcase to show how it was done (and sometimes why the country doesn’t do it that way anymore). It’s part of our mission and an expanding one all the time.

Speaking of the smithy, we now give classes. We have a lot of students and I am not talking about the thousands of school kids that Cynthia Christensen attracts for Pioneer Days. I am talking about the opportunity to learn how to bend metal with your bare hands, or at least gloved hands and a hammer and anvil. While we can only have a few students at a time in the blacksmith shop, for Pioneer Days well over a thousand 4th graders every year show up to our complex to discover first hand what history is all about. Wearing pioneer clothes to get in the spirit, they take a hand at washing with a washboard, packing a wagon, shaving bark from logs, planting a garden.

One of the new things developed out of Pioneer Days, is our re-buildable log cabin. Have you noticed the giant “Lincoln Logs” Log Cabin that we now have for the kids? Similarly, have you noticed the scale model Covered Wagon and other hands-on exhibits we have for the kids that can be intriguing for adults too?
President’s Letter continued...

We have other new “toys”, although perhaps we should not refer to a 17 ton beautiful antique steam tractor as a toy. Want to learn how to drive it? Join the Steam Committee. They deserve a thank you for finding it, persuading the owner to sell it to us at a discount and getting it here. We doubled our steam tractors just this year and added a lot more to our list of artifacts, working artifacts. The other steam tractor is getting a great refitting thank you to our incredible restoration crews.

Outreach? We’re doing that. Not just with the Legislature and other groups, but actively looking for ways to encourage other historical organizations to join or work closely with us on our mutual goals. The end result hoped for? A true County wide amalgamation of those interested in discovering, preserving, protecting and promoting history.

What can you do to further our goals? Keep up the good work. It is not just your donations and service we need though. We need your ideas. Got an idea like the Vintage Baseball? Pitch it. Are you busy? We’re willing to listen. Help us figure out ways to build that Heritage Village. If nothing else, help us recruit more people to be active members.

As you can see, this is not a static organization even though we concentrate on the past. So, what new and exciting things will the next President be able to brag about? I don’t know. Stick around and find out. And on behalf of the Board, thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Charles Hillestad, President of Yamhill County Historical Society

June 12, 2019

Motion: Stan P. moved and Todd H. seconded to approve the Accomplishments and Goals draft. Unanimous

- Newsletter distribution—it has been discussed to change the frequency of the newsletter. A bi-monthly newsletter is recommended to cut costs, and improve the quality of the content.

Motion: Dave R. moved and Roy C. seconded to change the newsletter from 10 issues a year to bi-monthly (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov.) Passed; Unanimous

- Pam W. made a proposal to change the date of the annual meeting in December 2019. December is a very busy month and the date needs to be picked when the H.C. is available.

- A motion will be written to change the date of future annual meetings—in the month of January. The election committee will look into this.

Motion: Pam W. moved and Todd H. seconded that the annual meeting be moved to December 15th 12:30 to 2pm, with the H.C. to pay the admission to the Joe and Janet concert (2-4pm) immediately following the meeting for those who wish to stay. Passed; Unanimous

July 10, 2019

Guests: Tony Meeker, Mickey Anderson, Raylinda Price

Motion: Charles moved, Roy seconded to purchase additional insurance coverage for off site transportation of items for $500 per year, $1000 deductible, $10,000 coverage per occurrence. Passed; Unanimous

Motion: Pam W. moved and Walt S. seconded to purchase new tables, for up to $1000. Passed; Unanimous

Motion: Pam W. moved and Jack M. seconded to approve up to $150 to construct a rolling display rack. Passed; Unanimous

Volunteer/Membership Committee: need to find a replacement for Carlene Kadell, Pam W. will be the membership coordinator until Jan. 1st.

August 14 2019

Motion: Roy C. moved and Sarah M. seconded to allow the Merchandising Committee to start a contest for a new t-shirt design, and the winning prize is $100 and a t-shirt. Passed. Unanimous

Motion: Sarah M. moved and Jack M. seconded to approve phase 1 of the entrance kiosk construction project. Passed; Unanimous

Motion: Jack M. moved and Todd H. seconded to change out 29 bulbs at $3 each plus 10 family memberships in exchange for labor. Passed; Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 6:23pm
Preserving our Yamhill County History and Heritage... Volunteer Spotlight

It's all to easy to rush right in the Museum door and head straight for the exhibit hall or the dairy display or the restoration shop; but one would be missing an integral part of our preservation and education mission growing outside the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center. It’s here that you’ll find Kinnikinnick, Deer Fern, and Salmonberry; the foliage of our forefather’s. We thank our landscaping volunteers for helping us mix beauty and bounty into our mission. This is a new team of volunteers and we’ll introduce you to a few of them right here.

“Doc and I are grateful for this opportunity to volunteer.

Two years ago when Doc’s only grandchild moved out of state my heart was heavy and I was a bit lost. I had taken care of him his first 2 1/2 years. Without him I was hurting. Pouring myself into Gloria’s work has helped me transition into life other than as James’ ‘Gammy’.

When I am at the Heritage Center it is as though I have been given a shot of adrenaline. I feel great physically and mentally. When I leave each day and sit for the hour ride home, when we arrive home in Corvallis I am physically so stiff I need a can opener to get me out of the car. My hands and at times my back hurt but a few aspirin later that is all forgotten. I begin planning my next project in my head and by the time we return I have mentally accomplished the task many times over. So much fun!!!”

Julie Cox

Meet Leeta Van Holten, a member of our landscaping team. Leeta is from Mac, has two daughters and four grandchildren.

She’s been volunteering since 2016 and prides herself on keeping our flowers and indigenous plants happy and hydrated. Leeta loves being at the Heritage Center (“the farm” as she affectionately calls it) to play in the dirt and water the flowers.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO LEETA!

Julie and Antonia also want to give a special THANK YOU to the YCHS blacksmith team for their superb craftsmanship in the forge, pounding out hose bibs and plant hangers to the delight of the landscaping team. These tools and equipment being made right on site makes this preservation project that much more special. Rick from the blacksmith shop created the plant pot hangers and helped to place them on the poles. Now the flowers are not only easier to water but more visible.

Thanks to Smithy’s Rick, Dale, Rod and Leonard
Hay Day Proves To Be A Hit

Our favorite muleskinner, Wayne Beckwith, in partnership with the 4-H Wagon Train kids and the YCHS, hosted the first ever HAY DAY event at the Heritage Center in June. The turnout for our pancake breakfast was outstanding, and the Wagon Train served them well. After a hearty breakfast, all were treated to a one of a kind exhibit of draft animals and there handlers putting up hay the old way. Each step of the process was masterfully explained to a curious crowd. Look for the Beckwith Team at many of our YCHS events in the Future, and stay tuned for our probable 2nd Annual Hay Day on Father’s Day weekend in 2020!
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 "mit" 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 right field. 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. Not a ball player but still want to participate? We've got you covered. 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. If you can help with any of these volunteer positions, we want you on the Gristmiller Team. Also, in 1866 the spectators, "a fine crowd of CRANKS", are a vocal bunch. All are welcome and period dress is encouraged.

This season we're having our match on a Saturday, which means the Heritage Center Museum will be open from 10am-4pm for visitors. We welcome you to take a tour of our Yamhill County History between innings.

If you’d like to learn more about YOUR McMinnville Gristmillers, email the Captain at volunteercoordinator@yamhillcountyhistory.org or "like" the McMinnville Gristmiller Vintage Base Ball Club Facebook page for updates.
McMinnville’s First Horseless Carriage Race, Summer 1903

From a 1950 Oregonian article interviewing Ralph Wortman, 1955 Capitol Journal article interviewing George Graves of Salem, and DMV records.

Young Ralph Wortman was fascinated by the first horseless carriage he saw in a magazine in 1901. Working for his Father’s bank in McMinnville, he could only afford a motorcycle. In 1901 he bought a Mitchell motorcycle and soon learned to hate that contraption; only malfunction and grief. He learned Portland had one business selling horseless carriage vehicles. In late 1902 Wortman visited the dealer and bought a slightly used 1901 steam powered Locomobile for $500, plus trading in his dreaded motorcycle. (the Locomobile is on display in the YCHS Heritage Center) He borrowed the $500 from his grandmother and because the road from Portland was muddy and poor, he waited until late Spring 1903 to drive his “new” Locomobile home. He loved that vehicle and soon learned to operate and maintain it. Wortman was a talented young mechanic/banker. His green Locomobile was the first horseless carriage in Yamhill County and is believed to be the first to travel West over the coast mountains and put wheels into the Pacific Ocean (1904).

George Graves of Salem bought the first horseless carriage from a dealer in Salem in the spring of 1903. It was a 1903 Rambler, one seat, one cylinder gas engine with 6 horsepower, painted red. As a travelling salesman, he drove to McMinnville on a sales call, Summer 1903, and visiting with Wortman they decided to race the length of 3rd Street (McMinnville’s “Main” Street). Drinks were downed and bets were placed. While racing, the Rambler hit and killed a favorite dog of a McMinnville City Counselman. Angry, the City Counsel soon passed a law to stop speeding down 3rd Street and McMinnville got credit for the first horseless carriage speed law in Oregon. Later some other cities followed, Eugene in 1906.

Oregon first registered and licensed horseless carriages, now called automobiles, May 17, 1905, starting with license #1. This registry still exists and ran up through May 1911 with numbers over 6400. The vehicle owner was assigned his license number on a receipt then painted the number on his vehicle, or on a board, or bought house numbers and attached them. In June 1911, Oregon started over again and issued stamped steel plates, in pairs, starting again with license #1.

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

- SEAN KELLER
- FAITH DAVVIN
- PERSEPHONE COOPER
- LARRY DILL
- JANICE CLAY
- JOHN LANG
- QUINJCE & DEBORAH MABRY
- GREG & KELLY SMITH
- JANET WATTS
- MICHAEL BARNHART
- JEFF LEE
- AARON HUGHES
- DANNY LEO
- JOHN & CINDY BAILEY
- DELLA JOHNSON
- DENNIS & JOSIE McGILL
- DOROTHY KREDER PEKKOLA
- HOLLY SPENCER
- LEONE WOOD
- DAVID HARGETT FAMILY
- MARY HARPER
- LARRY & CINDY RICHIE
- JONATHAN & ALANE DERRYBERRY
- LEONE WOOD
- HANNAH WITHEE
- JOHN MILLER
- JOHN & DIANNA HEBERT
- RAEDONNA KILLINGER
- MICHAEL WEBER, SR.
- DAVID ANDERSON & MELINDA MATHIESEN
- DEBORAH & DON BERG
- STEVE & KATHY BERNARDS
- STEVEN & JAN EDWARDS
- BRUCE E. HAMILTON
- JOHN & REBECCA HOLLAND
- DUSTIN HUNTLEY
- SHELIA JASPER
- KEVIN McFARLAND & CARLY LUZANDER
- DYLAN & JOSEY McKEE
- LARRY MENNENGA
- KRISTEN MULDOON
- ARLEN POUNDS
- NATHAN & JENNIE RAMER
- JOE RIVERA
- ROD & JO SCHILLING
- TERRY & ANNE STELLFLUG
- STEVE VAN DUYN

A big thank you to all of you for your support.
Carlene Kadell,
Membership Coordinator

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YCHS Membership Services now available online

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

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

Help spread the word. Ask your friend and family to sign on as YCHS members, committee assignments like Activities and Events or Accessions, or look at leadership positions on the Board of Directors or Budget and Strategic Planning Development. That’s what these folks do and they have fun doing it.

YCHS Board Directors Roy Carter, Alex Botten, and Walt Stahlnecker working the sawmill during Harvest Fest. That’s an active board; no pun intended...

Board Members Pam Watts and Stan Primozich working the Turkey Rama booth 2019

Director Jack Maxwell III and Carlene Kadell signing on new members at Harvest Fest...
RETURN THIS ENTIRE FORM WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES

2019 Historical Society Membership Application

THANK YOU for being a Yamhill County Historical Society Member! Your contribution to YCHS 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.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Members receive The West Side newsletter, admission to the Lafayette Museum and Library, access to genealogical and historical files, admission to the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center and programs, and 10% off photo orders and gift shop purchases. The membership year runs from January 1 (or date of new membership) to December 31.

I AM A NEW MEMBER [ ] I AM A RENEWING MEMBER [ ]

Online membership is now available on our new website! Find us at yamhillcountyhistory.org

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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>DUES FOR 2019 (JAN 1 - DEC 31, 2019)</th>
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<td>Senior/Student/Educator</td>
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<td>Senior</td>
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<td>Individual</td>
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<td>Community Builder</td>
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<td>Community Benefactor</td>
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CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________ City: __________________ State: _____ Zip Code: __________
Phone: __________________ Phone: __________________ Email: __________________

I would prefer to receive the YCHS Newsletter via: Email [ ] Postal Mail [ ]

☐ I would like to Volunteer to help with the activities - Please contact me

☐ Please check 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 form to:
YCHS PO Box 383 Lafayette, OR 97127

Questions? Call The Heritage Center 503-472-2842 or email: membership@yamhillcountyhistory.org
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 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.