A Failed Bank Robbery at Newberg, 1903

Sometimes shortly after midnight on Sunday October 18th, 1903, a group of men stopped in front of the Bank of Newberg on First and Washington Streets. Two or three of them forced open the front door while at least two more, armed with rifles, took up lookout positions in the shadows outside the building.

Once inside, the robbers made their way across the lobby and past the teller cage to the vault room. Electing to not attempt entry by breaking through the heavy steel door, they attacked the eighteen inch brick and concrete vault wall with sledgehammers. After nearly two hours of smashing and a bit of cursing, the burglars were able to gain access to the vault room. Their demolition work for the evening was not yet over however as the bank kept its cash in a formidable steel safe within the vault. It had been the very latest in secure design at the time of its purchase ten years earlier.

The robbers placed an explosive charge on the safe, lit the fuse and exited the building. When reentering after the blast they found the concussion had blown open the heavy steel vault room door from the inside making access much easier, but the safe itself remained unopened and relatively unharmed. Once more the robbers set off another charge only to find the strong box again remained solidly intact. In fact, no less than a total of nine attempts to blast open the safe occurred over about a thirty minute period.

Poling Recollections—Americans All

The following article was written by Daniel A. Poling who was a member of the Poling family for whom the old church that houses our Lafayette Museum was named. Daniel wrote a column that appeared in the New York Post and this is one of his contributions.

Americans All
By Daniel A. Poling—1945

One of the earliest settlements in the Oregon Country was Lafayette. Once it was a center of pioneer activities. It became the first County seat of Yamhill County. When I knew of it as a small boy, the seat of government had been removed to McMinnville although the ancient courthouse and jail were still standing. Later, those buildings were used for the classes and activities of Lafayette seminary—a small coeducational institution to which I owe a great debt.

The Grand Ronde Indian reservation in the Coast mountains some 40 miles to the west was the early proving ground for West Point graduates “Phil” Sheridan, Ulysses S. Grant, O.O. Howard and, I believe, Robert E. Lee did their first soldiering in this section of the Pacific Northwest. (Editor’s notes: Grant, Howard and Lee were never at Grand Ronde although Grant and Howard were in the Pacific Northwest at one time.)

I would give a good deal to...
Those who weren’t at the Volunteer Celebration on May 9 at the Heritage Center honoring the many volunteers who make the Historical Society great missed a great party. We owe a loud round of applause to Dave Rucker, our Vice President, for steering that event and of course similar applause for both the Activities & Events Committee who planned it and the Heritage Center crew for decorating the hall and, just as importantly, cleaning up afterwards. There was a lot of really great food, good friends, some raffle items to give away, and a chance to honor in person the long list of volunteers who make our operations possible. That includes the behind the scenes folks who don’t always get the credit they deserve. There are too many to mention here in this short space, but I think most of them were mentioned or got a chance to speak that night.

As long as we are giving rounds of applause, save one for Michael Hafner, our Website Coordinator, who has also given us some delightful presentations at membership meetings featuring old photos of past life here in the County. Check out too his work which regularly appears in the News-Register. Watch for the photos he has been scanning from the News-Register files. Partially in honor of all that and partially for the yeoman’s work he has been doing getting our new website fully functioning, Michael was voted on the Board as its newest Director. Congratulations Michael. We look forward to great things from you and your apparent almost encyclopedic memory of what has happened in McMinnville in the 20th Century.

Speaking of new things, watch for the new merchandise that the Society will be marketing at the Heritage Center. The Board authorized Tami Spears and her Merchandise Committee to order a selection of items that will be offered for sale to the general public. Members will get a discount on them. I thought the glassware with our logo looked particularly attractive and would make some wonderful gifts for those needing inspiration.

Have you seen the Lewis & Clark exhibit that was on the second floor of the Air Museum at the Evergreen Complex? Our sister museum has offered that display to us and the Board has voted to accept it. We thank the Evergreen folks for thinking of us and we look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with our fellow historical museum complex here in town.

Finally, I just want to remind you about the Country Dancing on some upcoming Sunday afternoons with live music. Check out our website for times and dates.

Charles Hillestad
YCHS President
Phone: (503) 687-1730
Email: charleshillestad@cs.com

Submitted: May 15, 2017
Committee Reports:

♦ Activities and Events— Sarah Miller reported that the Volunteer Celebration was well attended and a huge success. The next event will be Father’s Day On The Farm.

♦ Education Committee—Pioneer Days is underway with a lot of local school children participating.

♦ Heritage Center Operations— Cliff Watts reported that the committee is awaiting bids for washing the buildings and windows. The flooring is going in soon in the kitchen, followed by the fixtures. Security cameras will be discussed at a later meeting.

♦ Media Committee—Michael Hafner is working on providing a better description of the various YCHS committees to add to the website. This should assist in attracting new volunteers to specific areas. Michael is also working on getting old recordings of the past general meetings so they may be digitized for our archives.

♦ Merchandise Committee—Tami Spears provided examples of some of the merchandise the committee has been working on, such as mugs and pennants. The committee is prioritizing items for the first batch of merchandise.

♦ Rentals—Raylinda Price announced there are several small rentals on the books. The committee is reviewing the rental forms to better suit our needs.

Treasurer’s Report:

♦ Todd Holt provided the treasurer’s report which is on file in the record book in Lafayette.

Unfinished Business:

♦ Sarah, Rick and Michael attended the Heritage Summit which gave tips on how to raise money, membership drives, and crowd funding.

♦ The next phase of the Heritage Center highway sign is awaiting additional funding.

♦ The engineer report for the Poling Church has been completed and a detailed estimate is forthcoming.

New Business:

♦ Merchandise Policy and Procedure—Tami Spears presented a very detailed policy and procedure which will allow for future development. The Policy passed unanimously.

♦ Lewis and Clark exhibit—Evergreen Museum has offered YCHS their Lewis and Clark exhibit. The board agreed that this would be a great addition to the society.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Alex Botten, Secretary*

*Submitted May 15, 2017*
The vintage page of the *News-Register* encompasses an entire page in the Connections section and is described as chronicling life in the Yamhill Valley through the generations with the newspaper archives. It includes brief excerpts from years past as well as photos from exiting events! AND it just happens to be compiled by YCHS’s very own Michael Hafner. If you don’t get the News-Register, consider subscribing today. You can also find them on Facebook, just search for “Vintage News-Register”.

---

**Father’s Day**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH**

**On The Farm**

Gates open
10am to 3pm

YAMHILL VALLEY HERITAGE CENTER
11275 SW Durham Lane, McMinnville, Oregon

FREE Admission. Donations gladly accepted!

**COME CELEBRATE DAD**

Head out to the field for a special FATHER’S DAY Celebration!
Sasparilla, arm wrestling, horseshoe pits, a game of catch with an 1866 bat & ball, & much much more.

---

YAMHILL VALLEY HERITAGE CENTER
11275 SW DURHAM LANE
MCMINNVILLE, OREGON

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RAISE THE BARN
A YCAP FUNDRAISER

JULY 15, 2017 / YAMHILL VALLEY HERITAGE CENTER
## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### SUMMER 2017

<table>
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<tr>
<th>JUNE</th>
<th>JULY</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lafayette Museum</strong></td>
<td><strong>Board Meeting - Lafayette 5:30 pm</strong></td>
<td>10 <strong>General Meeting - Heritage Center</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>On Wednesday, Friday &amp; Saturday 10:00 am—4:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Heritage Center</strong></td>
<td><strong>Making Hay - Heritage Center</strong></td>
<td>10 <strong>Vintage Base Ball Game - Heritage Center</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>On Friday &amp; Saturday 10:00 am—3:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3rd Saturdays—Blacksmith Open</strong></td>
<td><strong>90th Birthday Celebration</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4th Sundays—Live Music at the Heritage Center 3-5pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Father's Day on the Farm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 14</td>
<td><strong>Board Meeting - Lafayette 5:30 pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 17</td>
<td><strong>Live Music at the Heritage Center 3:00-5:00 pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 22</td>
<td><strong>Pioneer Camp</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 25</td>
<td><strong>Live Music at the Heritage Center 3:00-5:00 pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AUGUST</strong></td>
<td><strong>Board Meeting - Lafayette 5:30 pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Harvest Fest - Heritage Center</strong></td>
<td>13 <strong>Board Meeting - Lafayette 5:30 pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>19-20</td>
<td><strong>Dragging The Gut Festival</strong></td>
<td>16 <strong>Treasures in the Attic - Heritage</strong></td>
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<td>25-26</td>
<td><strong>Live Music at the Heritage Center 3:00-5:00 pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SEPTEMBER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td><strong>Live Music at the Heritage Center 3:00-5:00 pm</strong></td>
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### FUTURE DATES to REMEMBER

- 3rd Saturdays—Blacksmith Open
- 4th Sundays—Live Music at the Heritage Center 3-5pm

- August 9—Board Meeting
- August 19-20—Harvest Fest
- August 25-26—Dragging The Gut
- September 10—Vintage Base Ball Game AND General Meeting
- September 13—Board Meeting
- September 16—Treasures in the Attic
- October 8—General Meeting & YCHS’s 60th Anniversary
- October 11—Board Meeting
- October 15-30—Fall Pioneer Days
- October 28—A Night at the Museum
- November 8—Board Meeting
- November 11—Veteran’s Day Event
- November 12—General Meeting
- December 2,3—Handmade Holiday
- December 10—ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- December 13—Board Meeting

### VISIT YCHS

**HISTORIC LAFAYETTE MUSEUM & RESEARCH LIBRARY**

605 Market Street, Lafayette, OR 97127

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm

Or by appointment (503) 864-2308

[www. yamhillcountyhistory.org](http://www. yamhillcountyhistory.org) ♦ Email: info@yamhillcountyhistory.org

[volunteercoordinator@yamhillcountyhistory.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@yamhillcountyhistory.org) ♦ Facebook Group: yamhillcountyhistory.org/fb

**YAMHILL VALLEY HERITAGE CENTER**

11275 SW Durham Ln.

McMinnville, OR 97128

Wed., Fri. & Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm

**Mailing Address:**

Yamhill County Historical Society

P.O. Box 484

Lafayette, OR 97127
How Much History Do You Actually Know?

How much history do you actually know? How will you fare in this quiz. No cheating!

1. Which was invented first?
   □ Toilet Paper  □ Banknotes  □ Gunpowder

2. Which drug was invented last?
   □ Cocaine  □ LSD  □ MDMA

3. Which event happened most recently?
   □ A Republican president was elected with neither a Bush nor Nixon on the ticket.
   □ The first programmable computer was created.

4. Who is pictured to the right?
   □ Joseph Stalin  □ Fidel Castro  □ Francisco Franco  □ Benito Mussolini

5. Which of these people died most recently?
   □ Frank Sinatra  □ The last widow of an American Civil War soldier
   □ The last 1938 World Cup final

6. Which of these happened first?
   □ Invention of doorknobs  □ Last dispute formally settled by a duel
   □ Gas absorption refrigeration

7. Which of these happened earlier?
   □ Founding of Harvard University  □ End of the Spanish Inquisition

8. What is Constantinople now known as?
   □ Istanbul  □ Athens  □ Tirana  □ Palermo

9. Which country gave women full political rights most recently?
   □ Canada  □ Switzerland  □ Portugal  □ Angola

10. Which of these was invented first?
    □ Seismometer  □ Thermometer  □ Telescope

11. Which happened last?
    □ Building of the Great Pyramid  □ Death of the last woolly mammoth
    □ Building of Stonehenge  □ Completion of the “Epic of Gilgamesh”

   Nope.
   I’m not going to tell you where the answers are!  NO cheating!!!

Special Activity June 17th

On June 17th, Wayne Beckwith, friends and their mules will be doing a haying demonstration at the Heritage Center between 10am - 3pm, including mowing, raking, and using the loose hay loader and buck rake. The first session starts about 10:30 and the second session starts about 1:30. Come on and view haying as it was done years ago!

Early Yamhill County - 1845

James O. Davidson came to Oregon in the fall of 1845, and with him was his brother, Albert F. Davidson. Almost immediately the two men went into the Willamette Valley looking for land claims. James seems to have been more easily satisfied than Albert and on January 9, 1846 filed a claim in Yamhill County situated in Salt Spring Valley. Albert spent the rest of the winter traveling throughout the Willamette Valley taking odd jobs as he could find them and recording his activities and impressions in a journal which was later published by an eastern newspaper. In the spring Albert returned East to get his parents. He left James living on his Salt Spring Valley claim.

Albert and the parents returned to Oregon in the fall of 1847. They were shocked to find James had disappeared under mysterious circumstances and was presumed drowned in the Willamette River near Wheatland, where his horse had been found. His body was never found. Albert also discovered that someone had jumped the Davidson claim in Salt Spring Valley. He managed somehow to have it returned to him, and filed on the same claim on December 27, 1847. By 1850 Albert had abandoned the claim and was living in Marion County.

But where was Salt Spring Valley? The claim as recorded by the Davidson brothers is no help in locating the place, but a claim filed on November 18, 1847 gives us the necessary clues:

R. Coddington claims 640 acres of land in Yam Hill county. Situated in Salt Spring Valley, and bounded as follows. To wit., Beginning at the NW corner of James O. Davidsons claim, thence running one mile S to a stake, thence E one mile to a stake, bounding on the northern line of A. Hendricks claim, etc.

By November of 1847 Abijah Hendricks had settled on the claim which became his donation land grant. Salt Spring Valley would have been just north of Abijah Hendricks’ claim. The map made from the first government survey of the area in 1852 locates the salt spring that gave the valley its name. The road that leads to old Salt Spring Valley is about a mile east of the junction of the Mineral Spring’s road and the Carlton-Newberg highway—turn north off the highway.

By Roma Sitton 1977
know what happened to the hitching post that used to stand by the town watering trough. Traditions had it that the dashing lieutenants from the reservation when they rode to the trading post, hitched their ponies there. The Yamhill river was a treacherous little stream but its swimming holes with sandy banks and swift currents were unsurpassed in all the valley. Long since they disappeared when the locks were installed.

Until it burned, years ago, the “Burbank Mansion” was the great house of the region, the first with bay windows. One man insisted that they were “sorrel” windows.

I became acquainted with my father when he was the pastor of the Evangelical church in Lafayette. The first church in the town was a Methodist church that boasted a clear-toned bell that came around the Horn. The second was a Presbyterian church. I knew them all but now only the church that my father built remains. There are many changes but this little house of prayer stands firmly on its central corner. In it, on occasion, people of all churches and faiths gather to worship. Two weeks ago I sat again in the front pew. I met old friends and talked about other friends gone but not forgotten. Later I lifted my grandson into the limbs of the tree that my father planted and that I used to climb and I took him down to the stream where I caught my first fish.

Some things never change—the things that really matter. Lafayette, in the shadow of the red hills, beside the little river is not a place of buildings and streets but a spirit immortal.

YAMHILL COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
11275 SW Durham Lane, McMinnville
(cross of Hwy 18 & Durham)

Threshing, binding & baling oats with vintage farm equipment & mules • Working sawmill & blacksmith • Stagecoach rides • Kids’ area—with hands on activities • Pedal tractors & animals • Tractor Parade 1pm • Agricultural & historical displays • Music & Food

Admission $8 per person; YCHS members and kids under 12 get in FREE
For full schedule, go to YamhillCountyHistory.org • Find us on Facebook

THE DRAGGING THE GUT® FESTIVAL
AUGUST 25-26, 2017
WWW.DRAGGINGTHEGUT.COM
The noise of the explosions awoke several neighbors who quickly became aware of the situation and most, like school principal R.W. Kirk, elected to remain spectators out of respect for the armed lookouts outside. A Mrs. McDaniels who lived in a small house directly behind the bank endured the blasts by hiding under a bed with her two daughters. Isaac Vinson was returning home on Washington Street after working late when one of the lookouts shouted “Get out of this or I’ll put a hole in you!” following up his command with a shot fired in Vinson’s direction. Isaac lost no time in responding as directed. Reverend S.W. Potter had loaded his pistol and was preparing to go for help when the shot fired at Mr. Vinson whistled down the street. At the same time, the preacher wisely decided the entire matter was better left in the hands of the Almighty.

Henry Austin and his son Arthur did make an attempt to alert the community. Arthur was dispatched to the electric light plant with instructions to wake the engineer who slept there and have him turn on the street lights (normally turned off at 10pm). The lad was then to head for the city hall and start ringing the fire bell. In the meantime, Henry would cautiously crawl to a position near the bank. Their plan was that the noise of the bell would scare off the intruders, and with the street lights on, Henry might be able to identify them. This effort fell apart when Arthur arrived at the light plant to find the engineer gone and then at city hall discovered the robbers, in anticipation of such an occurrence, had removed the fire bell rope. Scrambling to the top of the bell tower Arthur managed to finally sound a belated alarm about the time the empty handed gang crossed the city limits in the direction of Chehalem Mountain.

The next day, town marshal Joe Woods along with detectives from the insurance and safe companies conducted an investigation. It was determined that the explosive employed had been nitroglycerin, but the robbers were not experienced with its use. Only very small amounts of this explosive are required to produce the desired results while larger charges usually send the force in directions not intended. These robbers had used far too much in each of the nine blasts as evidenced by blowing out the locked heavy steel vault room door while inflicting only minimal damage upon the target object inside. As to the identity of the miscreants, Marshal Woods was able to uncover but two clues: One safecracker was heard to call another “Bob” and footprints left by one of the lookouts indicated he had enormous feet. 

Once the on-scene investigation was completed, the battered safe was hauled to the blacksmith shop at 108 S Meridian Street where it was opened under the watchful eye of Mr. Colcord and other bank officials. The contents were secured and undamaged.

Although their escape route was later traced through Scholls to the edge of Portland, the inept safecrackers were never apprehended. The Bank of Newberg interior was soon replastered, the vault door repaired and a brand new safe installed. Finally, for the next seventy years the sturdy old safe remained in service as an iron cleaning bench at the blacksmith shop.
History Quiz Answers... How’d you do?

Here are the answers... Remember.....No cheating!

1. Which was invented first? - Toilet paper was invented in 589 A.D.! Both banknotes and gunpowder were first created around 600 A.D. and 900 A.D. All three were first used in China. This is a good example of having priorities in order.

2. Which drug was invented last? - LSD was created in 1938. Cocaine was refined in the mid-1800s, and MDMA was created in 1912.

3. Which event happened most recently? - The 1928 election of Herbert Hoover was the last ticket elected without a Bush or Nixon, thanks to appearances as vice-presidential candidates, and Ford’s unelected ascension to the presidency. Meanwhile, the Z1 computer was created in 1938.


5. Which of these people died most recently? - The last widow of a Civil War soldier died in 2008. Frank Sinatra passed away in 1998, while Italian World Cup finalist Pietro Rava died in 2006. However, Maudie Hopkins married the 86-year-old Civil War veteran William M. Cantrell in 1934 when she was 19, and passed away in 2008.

6. Which of these happened first? - Gas absorption refrigeration was invented in 1858. Doorknobs weren’t patented until 1878, somehow. Before then, doors were complicated. Meanwhile, the last duel was in France, in 1967.

7. Which of these happened earlier? - The Founding of Harvard was earlier. Harvard was founded in 1636, while the Spanish Inquisition was only finally abolished in 1834.

8. What is Constantinople now known as? - Istanbul! Originally Byzantium, the city became Constantinople before being known as Istanbul.


10. Which of these was invented first? - The first seismometer was invented in 132 A.D., in China. Both the thermometer and telescope weren’t developed until the mid-17th century.

11. Which happened last? - Remarkably, the last woolly mammoth died around 1650 B.C. The pyramids were completed in 2650 B.C., Stonehenge was primarily completed by 2000 B.C., and the “Epic of Gilgamesh” was written by 2000 B.C. as well.

Written by Luke Bailey
For BuzzFeed
2017 Pioneer Camp Application

Experience what life was like on an Oregon farm in the late 1800s. Join volunteers from the Yamhill County Historical Society in farming, working in the house, and making items needed by the family.

When: Each Thursday starting June 22 and ending July 27 (6 weeks)
Time: 8:30-11:30 a.m.
Place: Yamhill Valley Heritage Center (Corner of Highway 18 and Durham Lane)
Cost: $60 at time of registration. No refunds for days missed.
Ages: 8-18 A limit of 10 participants

Some activities students might participate in:

- Working in the garden
- Making Native American items
- Making fire kits
- Making nails
- Sewing on a treadle machine, sewing on a button, hemming a hanky
- Working with farm animals
- Carding and spinning wool, knitting
- Embroidering, making a rug, or lacemaking
- Playing old fashioned games

Activities will be designed around the age and gender of those attending.

Participant’s name____________________________________________________________
Address_____________________________________________________________________
Age____________  Phone #______________________________________________________
Parent/Guardian’s name_______________________________________________________

Fee: $60. Please make check payable to Yamhill County Historical Society and send check and this application to PO Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127 before June 13, 2017. Contact Gloria at glutz@onlinemac.com or (503)472-7563.
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.

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
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 contains the historic Poling Church and log cabin which house 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.