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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN OF THE YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Edited by: Ray Albright, Rt. 1 Box 277 Dayton

Membership in the Yamhill County Historical Society is open to all. We earnestly solicit your active participation in the activities of the society.

Membership dues are: Junior membership \$1.00 per calendar year
Adult membership \$2.00 per calendar year
Life Membership \$50.00

Payment may be made to the Financial Secretary:
Mrs. Florence M. Bridenstine
1029 East 4th St.
McMinnville, Ore. 97128

Museum located at 6th and Market St. in Lafayette is open Friday and Saturday afternoon in the winter, check with Mrs. Sitton for the hours.

OFFICERS

President.....	Dr. G. A. Odgers	Treasurer.....	Dr. J.A. Jonasson
Vice-Pres.....	Charles Teegarden	Financial Sec...	Florence Bridenstine
Recording Sec.....	Mrs. Mildred S. Renne	Membership Cec..	Marie Winters

The following account was written by Benjamin B. Branson, pioneer of 1848, who had a Donation Land Claim in the Sheridan area. It is in the possession of Jim Penland, a grandson of Mr. Branson. B.B. Branson evidently wrote this account, perhaps for a local newspaper, while he was visiting in Illinois. A Nephew, the son of Uncle Eli mentioned in the story, was still living at Ipawva. The account was written in pencil on lined writing paper that is crumbling with age. Small parts of the last three pages are gone. The missing parts have been indicated on the transcription below. The original spelling and punctuation have been used as much as possible.

We are grateful to Mr. Penland for sharing this bit of history with us

Ruth Stoller

** ** * * *

Ipava, Illinois May 9, 1898

A short chapter on crossing the plains with ox team fifty years ago. The writer was born Sept. 4, 1830 near -----ville (first part illegible) Illinois. In those days there were no free schools so the writer did not get the advantage of an education. My father William Branson had acquaintance who went to Oregon in 1845 in the course of time he heard from them and they gave a glowing account of the country so Father began making preparations for the journey and on the 28 day of March 1848 we started for Oregon with ox teams. Started from near Athens Sangamon Co crossed the Illinois river at the mouth of Spoon River passed through Eastayville (now Ipava after stopping with my Uncle Eli Branson continued on our journey crossing the Mississippi River at Quincy continued our journey crossing the Missouri River at St. Joe. Then we were in the Indian Country (now Kansas and Nebraska had the good fortune of meeting a company whose captain had been to Oregon and California. left St. Joe on the 29th day of April.

Soon found ourselves on the Plat River among the Indians and Buffalos I swam the Plat River with my whip lash in my mouth had much thunder lightning and rain on South Plat Met Joe Meek from Oregon between the South and North Platt heard that Sioux Indians would dispute our passage through the country and on approaching near their village sent the captain and two or three others forward to converse with them. They denied having made any threats So we passed the camp every driver carrying his gun. After passing the Indians we stoped and gave them a present of food and clothing they seemed to be well satisfied. We stopped a few days at Ft. Laramie. manufactured a large number of ox shoes then continued our Rout Found Mormans keeping a ferry on north Platt paid a dollar a wagon continued our journey seeing thousands of Buffaloes passed Independence Rock the Devils gate arrived at Pacific Springs July 4 raised a flag had short address by a Mr. Sheals then went hunting got plenty game (antelope, continued our journey had to cross a plain 54 miles without water for our stock took all we could Started at four o'clock in afternoon traveled all night reached Green River at 9:40 next morning took the precaution to unhitch the teams from wagons while yet a considerable distance from water found Bigam Young and other followers keeping a ferry on Green River traded considerable with them and continued our journey. Soon found our selves on Bear River in what is now Utah here we buried Thomas Bateman a young man from Iowa he was buried in the Road and (a) ll the wagons passed over the (grave so) the indians could not find the place and dig him up for the clothes on him the same day there was a child born in camp which made our numbers the same continued our journey passed the Soda and Steamboat Springs camped early had much fun continued on the way passed old Ft. Hall arrived at the American falls of Snake River where our company

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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSCAST

~~NOVEMBER~~, 1974

Event.....December meeting
Time.....Tuesday, December 10, 7p.m.
Place.....First Baptist Church, McMinnville
Business...Election of President, Recording Secretary
and Treasurer for the next biennium
Entertainment..Historical play entitled "Christmas in
Yamhill County, the 1890's"

Helene E. Nelson is the author and director of the play. We look forward with great anticipation to its enactment remembering as we do the splendid entertainment she and her cast provided a year ago.

The cast is: Dorothy Yurgel
Rich Pratt
John Stamps
Beverly Ingram
Tim Craig
Clarence Greenlund
Leonard Maahs

Dorothy Yurgel and John Stamps last year played the parts of Green and Sophrona Rowland. They play the same people this year.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION FROM THE RETIRING PRESIDENT: It doesn't seem possible that two years have passed since you chose me to be the President of the Society. They have been interesting and challenging years, also most enjoyable.

I thank all who in whatever capacity they served and helped to strengthen the Society and improve our Museum during my presidency. One man said to me, "All I have done has been to pay my dues and bring my wife and her pot luck food to the monthly meeting." As far as I am concerned that is a most important service.

My best wishes go to the officers who will be elected and will remain with the society.

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separated 12 wagons going to California they had one man accidentally killed on the way had been informed of the massacre of Dr. Marcus Whitman (one or two words torn away) numbering 15 by (word torn away) indians in January (be)fore and heard that the Oregonians were making war on them So we (illegible) about 600 Oregon Soldiers who were soon discharged having driven all the Indians out of the country on our arrival at the foot of the Cascade Range of mountains we first heard of the Discovery of Gold in California. arrived in Willamette Valley Sept. 7th Saw the first house since leaving the Indian mission near St. Joe Mo. crossed the Willamette River Sept. 9 at Oregon City arrived at upper South Yamhill (one or two words torn away) on Sept 15 (torn away) many old Illinois friends. Lived among the Indians who were friendly. The writer resided on one Farm 43 years never had any thing like a failure of crops --we say Oregon forever and Yamhill County against the world.

address Sheridan Oregon

BB Branson