

Dec 81

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY DECEMBER 8th, 1981 7:00 p.m.  
PLACE: MCMINNVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER, Room 201, Evans St., McMinnville  
POTLUCK: Bring your own table service  
PROGRAM: History of the McMinnville area

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MUSEUM NEWS

One of our windows did not survive the storm. Other than that we did pretty well. Laurence Schreiber has been working on his project in the museum tool building. Philip Schreiber worked one morning rearranging the machinery and preparing for the binder we are to have from the Newberg area. It had belonged to Rudolph Schaad. A Mr. Robert Smith at Dundee had sold the farm and donated the binder.

I just mailed our book, Old Yamhill, to the Wisconsin State Historical Society in Madison, Wisc.. I wonder how they knew about our book? This book really puts Yamhill County on the map.

We had a lovely meeting in Lafayette and Mrs. Johnson gave a good history as she remembered the early town. Election of officers soon and some members will be new and some will retain their old jobs. Our cooperation will be appreciated.

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. We should be very grateful for the land we live in and the food we produce. Look back at the pioneer effort that were put forth to cultivate this land and make homes. Now, third and fourth generations are still on the original donation land claims.

We have had several class groups this past month. Also, we have a new batch of land claim maps of Yamhill County that sell for \$2.50 each. Call 472-7935 any time for an appointment for any group.

ROMA SITTON

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HISTORY NOTES

We have recently received a copy of a diary kept in 1873 by Melissa Ellen Payne, written while she was living a couple of miles east of Bellevue.

Melissa was the wife of Dr. Martin Payne who was a son of Meriam Payne, a donation land claim holder. Meriam Payne was a sister of Mrs. Thomas J. Shadden. Both the Paynes and the Shaddens had come to Yamhill County in 1850 - after having spent some time in California.

The parents of Melissa, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson Drury, had died on the way to Oregon in 1853, leaving five orphan children. The children were brought to Lafayette and there Melissa, who was ten years old and the oldest of the orphaned Drury children, was taken in by John and Jane Kineth. The Kineths soon moved to the Puget Sound area, taking Melissa with them. By 1858 the fifteen year old Melissa was back in Yamhill County where, on August 12, 1858, she was married to twenty year old Martin Payne.

For a while Martin and Melissa lived with his mother and brother. By 1870, they were living next to or near his mother, and Martin was a physician. According to his advertisement in the McMinnville newspaper, he was "a physician and accoucher, giving special attention to diseases of women and children." Melissa's diary verifies this and shows that he had a good practice. There is no indication as to where he got his training as a doctor. A usual procedure at the time was to work with an experienced physician for a time and then start out on your own.

Dr. Martin Payne practiced at Bellevue until 1877 when the family finally sold the last of the donation land claim. Martin and Melissa moved to West Chehalem and Martin continued his practice there. By 1880, they were in McMinnville and a few years later moved to Portland where Martin continued to work as a doctor. He died in Portland on December 2, 1898 and was buried in Lone Fir Cemetery. Melissa lived until 1924, dying in Los Angeles. Martin and Melissa had six children, including a daughter who died in infancy and was buried on the donation land claim. The other children were Claiborne, Ammon, Rodham, Wells and Rebecca.

People most often mentioned in the diary are a Dickey family (probably David); Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Mulkey (Margaret Garrison); Melissa's brother, Wells, and her sister, Celinda Drury Roberts; George and Itha (Grant) Sawyer; Henry and Ammon Shadden; Lizzie Moore; Thomas Holcomb; Mr. and Mrs. Martin Lynch (Elizabeth Holcomb).

Next time: Some excerpts from the diary.....

Submitted by Ruth Stoller

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#### NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Three offices are up for election at our annual December meeting. The nominations are:

Vice-President:	Tom Bunn of Amity	(term will expire Jan. 1984)
Financial Sec.:	Evelyn Neiman	(term will expire Jan. 1984)
Director:	Laurence Schreiber	(term will expire Jan. 1986)

The other officers will continue in their capacity.

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#### 1982 Dues

Payable to Mrs. Evelyn Neiman, 1501 S. Baker St., McMinnville. Please keep current. \$3.00 per individual per year.

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DON'T FORGET!

Rummage SALE

DECEMBER 3-4-5<sup>th</sup>

Corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Adams. McMinnville

DONATIONS GLADLY ACCEPTED.