

AUMSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

A recent addition to the museum is a segment of the 1900 Elections Poll Book for Aumsville Precinct. At that time, Aumsville was a small village, surrounded by farms; incorporation did not take place until 1911. The list gives the names of 153 male residents, who had registered to vote in June 1900. There are no women's names because women could not vote. That changed, in part, thanks to Abigail Scott Duniway.

Abigail Scott was born in Illinois in 1834. In 1852, she made the arduous trip over the Oregon Trail with her family. She recorded the sights and events in a diary. She seemed destined to be a writer. She married Ben Duniway and had six children. For some time, she operated a millinery and dressmaking shop in Albany. By 1871, they had moved to Portland. Abigail originated THE NORTH WEST NEWS. With her husband's help, they operated this weekly newspaper for sixteen years. Abigail wrote serialized stories, which were printed in the paper. She also penned the first novel written in the Pacific Northwest.

Abigail's personal objective was to bring about equal rights for women. She actively pursued this goal for over 40 years. Five times the Oregon Legislature voted down women's suffrage. In 1912, on the sixth try, women were given the right to vote. In 1914, Abigail was the first female in Oregon to cast a vote. Unfortunately, she passed away in 1915 and was not able to fully enjoy the fruit of her labor.

The museum will be open from 11 until 2 PM on Saturdays through October. It will open early on Corn Festival Day. Everyone is invited to the museum's tenth anniversary celebration on August 10th. For further information, or to make a visit by appointment, please call Ted Shepard 503-749-2744 or Karlene Santibanez 503-749-2585.