

AUMSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Aumsville Historical Society does not meet in January. Nevertheless, there are projects to be done, such as filing and researching inquiries from the public. AHS member Glen Arthur Jones passed away on December 23rd at his home in Stayton. Genealogy was his hobby and he was a member of several historical societies. AHS sends its sympathy to his widow, Bonnie.

The museum has received some interesting transcriptions of reminiscences. Miss Lucy Adams began her teaching career in Oregon in 1903. She taught in a variety of schools in out-of-the-way places. She saw a great deal, learned a lot, and recorded it for posterity. In the autumn of 1908, she accepted a teaching position in Silver City, one of Idaho's oldest mining camps. It was located in rather barren mountains at an elevation of more than 6000 feet. Silver City had already experienced its bonanza years, but management hoped there were more rich deposits. Stamping mills had just been installed. Night and day, these earth-shaking, ear-splitting machines crushed rock to expose tightly-held precious metal. About Christmas time, the payroll failed to arrive. Silver City soon became snowbound. In the middle of the night in late January, Lucy awoke to an unaccustomed silence. The stamping machines had stopped, never to function again. No pay, no more credit at the mercantile and the saloons. As soon as the road was passable, the miners and their families left and the teacher was no longer needed. The next fall, Lucy taught at Pine in northern Idaho. No doubt, she thought about her former students from Silver City and hoped they were back in school somewhere.

The next AHS meeting will be held at 7 PM on Thursday, February 14th in the community center. The museum is closed for the winter, but visits can be arranged by appointment. Please contact Ted Shepard at 503-749-2744 or Karlene Santibanez at 503-749-2585.