

AUMSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Aumsville Historical Society met on March 14th in the community center. Business matters were brought up to date. Jared Radke of the Pizza Peddler is the newest business member. Some recently donated print items were displayed and discussed. A new display board has been erected in the museum.

Diana Maul sent AHS two articles from the December 22, 1910 issue of THE STAYTON MAIL. The one called "Good Town in a Thriving Locality" was written when Aumsville's population was about 159. The writer extols the beauty, resources and productivity of the area. The second article is entitled "Aumsville Boosters". It names the local business men and their qualifications. The articles represent an early 1900s version of the slogan "Aumsville, a great place to live".

A recent addition to the AHS museum library is a 1976 resource handbook on early schools in Marion County. The first school in Oregon Country was conducted by Solomon H. Smith in the home of Joseph Gervais near the present-day Wheatland Ferry. The students were children of French Canadians and their native wives. The men were retired employees of England's Hudson's Bay Company. They farmed on French Prairie. The children spoke French and the Chinook dialect, not English. In 1835 Rev. Jason Lee and his fellow missionaries built the Methodist Mission Manual Labor School on the Willamette River. Their students were Native Americans.

Aumsville School District was established in 1861. Unfortunately, the book does not name the numerous countryside schools that functioned prior to that time. In the early days, most of those schools only offered three to five months of instruction per year. The Cascade Union High School District was established in 1947. It created the consolidated school system which is still in place today.

The next AHS meeting will be held at 7 PM, Thursday, April 11th in the community center. The museum will be open on Saturdays from 11 until 2 pm beginning April 6th. Visits by appointment can also be arranged. Please call Ted Shepard 503-749-2744 or Karlene Santibanez at 503-749-2585.