

## AUMVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The February meeting was cancelled due to possible inclement weather. On February 11<sup>th</sup> President Ted Shepard made his annual report to Aumsville City Council. Former Aumsville resident Leo Wheadon passed away on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Leo was a US Navy veteran of WWII. He operated a store on Main Street. He had been a member of the city council and in the mid-1960s, he was the mayor of Aumsville. AHS sends its sympathy to his widow Bea and the other family members.

AHS received an inquiry about the Steinkamp family. Information is being gathered. Heinrich Wilhelm Steinkamp was born in Hannover, which is in north central modern-day Germany. H.W. came to the US about 1881. He married Julia Ern in Missouri and they moved to Arkansas. Times were very hard. In the early 1890s, H.W. and his nine year old son Henry came to Oregon by train. Several months later, Julia and an infant son joined them. H.W. and family settled in the countryside between Aumsville and Sublimity and they had two more sons. H.W. passed away in 1932. Julia lived until 1946. Both are buried in St. Boniface Catholic Church Cemetery in Sublimity.

While researching the family, an interesting item from an old newspaper was found. In 1922, THE BEND BULLETIN ran a story about Henry Steinkamp. He had grazing land in Oregon's high desert and was stockpiling hay in twelve large stacks. He noticed hordes of jackrabbits in the vicinity. The winter snows came. When he next checked on the hay, he climbed one of the snowy mounds and quickly dropped to the ground. The rabbits had eaten the hay, all 250 tons of it.

The next AHS meeting will be held at 7 PM, March 14<sup>th</sup> in the community center. The museum is closed for the winter, but will reopen in April. In the meantime, visits can be arranged by appointment. Please call Ted Shepard at 503-749-2744 or Karlene Santibanez at 503-749-2585.