

Albany Old Times

Albany: A Primer

By Cathy Ingalls, Museum Board Member

You live in Albany or you reside elsewhere and commute here for work but how much attention have you paid to the city's history, geography, demographics and its economy?

Below is a short primer about the city, which is the state's 11th largest and is located in Linn and Benton counties at the confluence of the Willamette and Calapooia rivers.

First a little history:

The early people who inhabited the area were one of the Kalapuya tribes. They named the place Takenah, meaning deep pool, which described the coming together of the two rivers.

(Continued on Page 3)



Early view of Albany Airport before I-5. Potts Collection 2007.015.214

E & E

Calendar Exhibits and Events

Friday, February 1

First Friday at the Museum—Local Artists on Display—4-8

Wednesday, February 13

History Bites—TBD—Noon

Saturday, February 16

Fire Department 150th Anniversary Exhibit Opens

Friday, March 1

First Friday at the Museum—Showing OPB Documentary on Abigail Scott Duniway—4-8

Wednesday, March 13

History Bites—Albany Nutria—Noon

Friday, April 5

First Friday at the Museum—Local Artists on Display—4-8

Wednesday, April 10

History Bites—TBD—Noon

Samuel Simpson and "The Beautiful Willamette"

By David Fitchett, Museum Volunteer

2018 was the 150th anniversary of "The Beautiful Willamette".

What is "The Beautiful Willamette"?

Who is Samuel Simpson?

What is his connection to Albany?

In 1848 Samuel Simpson came to Oregon as an infant, when his father avoided the rampant Columbia River and captained the first wagon train down the Barlow Road. They initially settled in Oregon City where John McLoughlin, the Father of Oregon, befriended his family and gave his mother a copy of Robert Burns poems. His mother taught Samuel and his brother the alphabet by drawing letters in the fireplace ashes and eventually gave the Burns book of poems to Samuel.

His father was a business entrepreneur and also went to the Oregon legislature four times from four different counties. For several years he had a "settler's store" at Fort Yamhill near the Grande Ronde Reservation which served goods and alcohol to the military families. The 16 yr. old Samuel served beer and spirits to the army and met Lt. Phil Sheridan. Sheridan knew of Samuel's interest and gave him a copy of Lord Byron's poems. Simpson not only kept

(Continued on Page 4)

Union & Disunion

By Amy Bozorth, Collections & Exhibits Manager

Union and Disunion:

"A patriotic young lady dismissed her intended in short meter, on learning that he had recently voted the Democratic ticket." -The Albany Journal, March 19, 1864

The playful passage above comes from an 1864 Civil War era edition of the Albany Journal newspaper uncovered in the Museum's collection a few short weeks ago. At its top, the newspaper is beautifully preserved with bold headings proudly proclaiming, "Latest News By Telegraph" and "Union State Convention." Just under these headlines, however, burn streaks, ash and soot stain the page and obscure the newspaper's fascinating articles. These are clear indications the paper was tossed into a stove to light a fire. It's a miracle the paper survived and was recovered to find a home in our collection.

Newspapers are often treated with disregard. We use them to light fires, we wrap our valuables in them for safekeeping, we toss and recycle them without a second thought. But as any historian will tell you, newspapers are invaluable sources of community life. Vigilant newspaper reporters of the past not only reported the big events which shaped our community but captured the spirit of the people who lived here. A joke about a young lady dismissing her fiancé for political reasons might seem ridiculous to us today,

(Continued on Page 6)



From the Directors Desk... Another year in the Books

"Another year in the history books" as they say. We at the Museum hope that 2018 was good to you. While folks at the Museum are used to looking back at our shared history, for many it isn't until New Year's Eve that they mull over what has been.



Keith Lohse, Executive Director

It may be cliché but this year has been historic. Everything we do adds to our shared history. Looking back at this past year in Albany, the changing of mascots at South Albany High School comes to mind as an interesting piece of history. The changes at South Albany, and the fight to stop them, will add to the long and interesting history of public education in Albany. While today, folks find the stories of the first schools in Albany and the private schools that

popped up during the civil war to keep union and confederate sympathizers separate as fascinating history. The next generation will see the changing of the mascot in the same light, they will look back at the editorials in the paper and the school board minutes to see the passion of those who came before. A moment of change; a moment of history.

It is for moments like this that the Museum exists. Founded in 1980 to preserve and share these stories before they vanish, we collect objects and memories to give to the next generation. So as you reflect on 2018, think of the Museum and consider how your story will one day be a part of our shared history. Keep this in mind as you make your resolutions for the coming year, and perhaps consider including the Museum in your plans for the future. Look at how you can support the work we do either through participation or gifts. Help us to stay strong as an organization so that your legacy and your past will continue to have a home into the future.

Keith Lohse

Albany: a Primer

(Continued from Page 1)

Abner Hackleman, a farmer from Iowa, was the first white settler to arrive in the area in 1845. He received a land claim and then he asked Hiram N. Smead to hold another claim for him until Hackleman's son could make it from Iowa.

But Hackleman died going back to Iowa to get his family, and in 1847 brothers Walter and Thomas Monteith of New York arrived after driving an ox team across the Oregon Trail. The men bought a 320-acre land claim from Smead for \$400.

The pair named their new home Albany after their hometown. About the same time, Abner's son, Abram, showed up on his father's land claim and built a log house.

The growing Hackleman and Monteith families were different in a lot of respects: The Monteiths were basically Republicans and merchants who were Union sympathizers during the Civil War. The Hacklemans, living to the east of the Monteiths, were working-class Democrats and sided with the Confederacy.

The two sides planted a hedge near Baker Street, setting a division between the two camps.

Physician R.C. Hill established the town's first school in 1851, with Eleanor Hackleman, Abram's wife, serving as the first schoolteacher.

The first steamboat, the Multnomah, drew up in 1852, the post office was established in 1850, the courthouse was built in 1852, and in 1870 the first trains came to Albany.



Grahamona steamboat on the Willamette. Potts Collection 2007.015.316

By 1910, 28 passenger trains left daily from Albany, going in five directions. Stagecoaches also served as transport vehicles. With the number of transportation options available Albany became known as Hub City.

Now some geography:

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the city contains about 17.55 square miles of land and 0.21 square miles of water. The city is known for being one of the lowest points in the Willamette Valley, with elevations ranging from 180 to 430 feet above sea level.

The demographics:

The census in 1870 showed that Albany contained 1,292 people; in 1910 there were 4,275 individuals; and in 2010 the population had reached 50,158. The estimated population in 2016 was 53,211.

The median age in 2010 was 35.6 years; and 25 percent were under age 18; 9.6 percent were between 18 and 24; 27.4 percent were between 25 and 44; 24.7 percent were between 45 and 64; and 13.1 percent were 65 or older.

Males made up 48.8 percent of the residents, and 51.2 percent were female.

The economy:

Albany is known in some circles as the rare metal capital of the world, creating zirconium, hafnium and titanium. A major producer is ATI Specialty Alloys and Components, formerly ATI Wah Chang.

With the decline of the timber industry, other commodities became big exports. They included grass seed, hazelnuts, corn, beans and strawberries.

More detailed information about Albany can be found in two publications available at the Albany Regional Museum: "Gem of the Willamette Valley, A History of Albany" by Edward Loy and the 1878 Albany City Directory.

Samuel Simpson and "The Beautiful Willamette"

(Continued from page 1)

those two poetry books with him, but also kept the spirit of drinking. For the rest of his life, poetry and alcoholism were a constant factor.

Samuel and his older brother went to Willamette College in Salem. He then went on to law school at Willamette, while also becoming the co-editor with his brother of the Oregon Statesmen (his father had financial interest in the paper). He was admitted to the Oregon Bar in 1867 - he had to wait a year before he was old enough to pass the age requirement. He came to Albany to practice law with Albany's first lawyer, Jesse Quinn Thornton. He lived in Thornton's house in North Albany on Fairmount Lake (now called Thornton Lake). He would then cross the Willamette River by ferry each day, landing at the dock at the end of Ferry St. and go to work in Thornton's office.

Although it was soon after law school, Simpson seemed to be more interested in journalism than the law, and his passion for liquor became more of a problem for him. In 1868, Thornton dismissed him from his practice and he married his wife Julia. They divorced 7 years later and he wrote this refrain about his divorce:

*You went your way
serenely,
And I went mine with
blame.*

O. S. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Rev. W. J. Monteith, Pastor. Preaching at 11 A. M.
UNITED PARS. CHURCH—Rev. S. G. Irvine, Pastor. Services at 11 A. M. and in evening.
Sabbath School at 2 1/2 P. M.
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH—Rev. J. F. Damon, Pastor. Services at 11 A. M. and 7 P. M. Sabbath School at 9 A. M.
M. E. CHURCH—Rev. C. G. Belknap, Pastor. Services at 11 A. M. and 7 P. M. Sabbath School at 3 P. M.
BAPTIST CHURCH—Rev. R. C. Hill, Pastor. Services on the 1st and 3rd Sabbaths of each month, at 11 o'clock A. M. and at candle-lighting. Sabbath School at 3 P. M.
METHODIST CHURCH, SOUTH—Rev. W. A. Finley, Pastor. Preaching on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, in the Albany District School House.

The original poetry under the head of "Ad Willamettam," to be found elsewhere in to-day's "Democrat," signed by S. L. S., we consider very pretty; and we trust the author will not let this be the last time he will favor us with his productions.

Thanks to Mr. M'Cormick for late State papers.

Try Mrs. Stipp's Thoracic Balsam.

ALBANY PRICES CURRENT.

CORRECTED WEEKLY BY J. GRADWOHL.

ALBANY, Saturday, April 18, 1868.

The following are the prices paid for Produce, and the prices at which other articles are selling in this market:

Wheat—white, per bushel,	70 cts.
Oats—per bushel,	35@40 cts.
Potatoes—per bushel,	87 1/2 @ \$1 00.
Onions—per bushel,	\$1 25.
Flour—per bbl,	\$5 50
Butter—per pound,	25 cts.
Eggs—per dozen,	15@20 cts.
Chickens—per dozen,	\$2 50@3 00.
Peaches—dried, per pound,	15@20 cts.
Pork—per pound,	5@6 cts.
Beef—on foot,	4@6 cts.
Mutton, per pound,	12 1/2 cents.
Soap—per pound,	5@5 1/2 cts.
Salt—Los Angeles, per pound,	2 1/2 cts.
Syrup—per gallon,	1.00
Tea—Young Hyson, per pound,	\$1 00
—Black,	75@ \$1 00.
—Japan,	\$1 12 1/2

POETRY.

[For the State Rights Democrat.]

AD WILLAMETTAM.

From the Cascades' frozen gorges,
 Leaping like a child at play,
 Winding, widening through the valley,
 Bright Willamette glides away.
 Onward ever
 Lovely river,
 Softly calling to the sea;
 Time that scars us,
 Maims and mars us,
 Leaves no track or trench on thee.

Spring's green witchery is weaving
 Road and border for the side.

"Ad Willamettam" (later titled "The Beautiful Willamette") in the Albany paper, The State Rights Democrat, April 18, 1868

*Your face was cool and
queenly,
And mine was red with
shame.*

On the week of his departure from Thornton, he printed his poem "Ad Willamettam" (later titled "The Beautiful Willamette") in the Albany paper, The State Rights Democrat, April 18, 1868. Below is the first stanza and an editorial comment on the right.

Samuel Simpson went on to many Oregon cities as a journalist, an editor and a revered poet: all the while dealing with his throes of alcoholism. He was called "the

Bard of the Northwest", "the Burns of Oregon" and was compared with Edgar Allen Poe. "The Beautiful Willamette" was his most enduring poem and schoolchildren would memorize this into the 1920's.

In Portland in 1899, Simpson fell while inebriated and died of a concussion.

As you walk along the Riverwalk at the end of Ferry St., you will notice an overgrown, bramble-filled remains of a concrete dock. It is near the river's edge by the 1866 Albany Custom Mill. It's a site where a wooden dock

once met people ferried across the Willamette. It's a place where a poet might have sat. You can look at the Willamette River there and think --

*Onward ever, Lovely river,
Softly calling to the sea.*

To see the full copy of "The Beautiful Willamette" and further details of Samuel Simpson's life, come to Albany Regional Museum's Reference Room.

MEMBERSHIP

Benefits us All

Your membership keeps the Museum open which benefits us all, but membership to the Museum provides you benefits too.

FRIEND - \$30

- Includes Full Household in Membership
- Invitation to Annual Members Meeting
- Annual Members Appreciation Event
- 10% off museum store
- Free Admission to Museum
- Receive copy of quarterly newsletter
- Invitation to Members only events

TIMBER - \$75

All the benefits of Friend plus:

- Member Pricing for Special Events
- Listing of Membership in Newsletter

HUB CITY - \$150

All the benefits of Timber plus:

- Increase to 15 % off Museum Store
- North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) member privileges

HERITAGE CIRCLE - \$250

All the benefits of Hub City plus:

- Increase to 20 % off Museum Store
- General Research Fee is Waived
- Private Tour of Museum

TAKENA SOCIETY - \$500

All the benefits of Heritage Circle plus:

- Listed on Takena Society Plaque
- One Free Community Room Rental
- Invitation to Annual Directors Dinner

Changes to Membership

To all our Museum Members, we want to say thank you. Your support provides 20 percent of our operating funds. It literally keeps the lights on.

Unfortunately, expenses keep going up and to keep the quality of Museum the community enjoys requires additional funds. We are seeking new revenue through many means including changes to our Membership Program. Starting in 2019 we will be using new membership levels. All current memberships will remain effective until their renewal date. Upon renewal our members will be asked to select one of our new levels. For some this may mean an increase to your membership cost.

As the Museum decided on changes to the levels we made every effort to increase the value of membership as well. We removed the individual level. The lowest level we now offer is Museum Friend at \$30 and is equivalent to the old Family level. All Memberships now include your whole household.

For those able to give more than \$30 we have several options. Our new Timber level (\$75) provides the benefits of Friend and receives special event discounts and listing in future newsletters. For those able to give at the \$150 Hub City level or above we have an exciting new benefit; membership into the North American Reciprocal Membership (NARM) program. This program offers reduced admission rates (usually free) plus discounts at museum shops and on concert and lecture tickets—at more than 1,000 NARM-affiliated institutions across the United States and Canada. A few local participants include the Benton County Historical Society, the Historic Deepwood Estate, and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. For more information on this program you can contact the Museum or visit narmassociation.org for a list of participating museums.

We hope these new benefits are as exciting to you as they are to us. Remember your membership benefits everyone by keeping the Museum running strong. If you have questions or concerns please contact the Museum.

Where There's Smoke

Our latest exhibit, *Where There's Smoke: Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Albany Fire Department*, goes on view February 16, 2019. This exciting exhibit explores the evolution of firefighting in Albany from the department's beginnings in 1869 to present day. Discover the pomp and prestige of Albany's early fire companies, learn how early alarm systems worked, and test your hand at a large scale model pumper to see if you can match the muscle of Albany's early firefighters.



136 Lyon Street SW

Albany, Oregon 97321

(541) 967-7122

e-mail: info@armuseum.com

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 83
Albany OR 97321

Board of Directors:

Darrel Tedisch, Chair
Kristen Schuttpelz, Vice Chair
Linda Collins, Secretary
Jim Jansen, Treasurer
Ruth Alderson
Kitty Buchner
Jason Darling
David Faller
Cathy Ingalls
Erik Rau
Jeff Sawyer

Liaisons:

Katie Knower, Albany Visitors Assoc.

Staff:

Keith Lohse, Executive Director
Amy Bozorth, Collections & Exhibits
Manager
Erica Broad, Member & Visitor Services
Coordinator
Kathwren Hayes, Member & Visitor
Services
Peggy Kowal, Volunteer Coordinator

Union & Disunion (Continued from Page 2)

but it speaks volumes to the social climate of the mid-1860s Civil War era.

The Museum is fortunate to have a sizable collection of early and modern Albany newspapers, each one a remarkable window into the past. This collection continues to grow steadily with the help of donors, some of who find newspapers in unexpected places. Last month the Museum was given two editions of the Linn County Republican, both from 1898 (the only two copies of the Linn County Republican the Museum now owns). The donor discovered these well-

preserved papers in the wall of the business she's renovating, along with several photos and various oddities.

The Museum is a fortunate recipient of newspaper donations like these, and while not currently available for public research, our hope for the far future is to digitize our newspaper collection to make it available to researchers. Until then, we will continue to fill in the gaps of our newspaper collection with the help of generous donations. So, if by chance you discover, tucked away in your attic, hidden behind the wallpaper of your home, or bundled in your

basement. Well-preserved copies of the Albany Journal, the Albany Herald, the Albany Democrat, the Albany Democrat-Herald, the Linn County Republican, the Camp Adair Sentry, Albany High School Whirlwind, the Orange Peel, Greater Oregon, or any other early to modern Albany related newspapers, the Museum would greatly love to have them.