



Spring 2010

## Yamhill County Historical Society

Brian Richardson  
*Linfield College*

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# Yamhill County Historical Society



Brian Richardson  
Kemper Internship  
2010





# About Me



- Business Management and Economics Major
- Gig Harbor, Washington
- Deep interest in local history
  - Fueled by my personal hobby
  - Bottle Digging



# Why seek an internship?

- Satisfy passion for history
- Challenge myself
- Get involved in the community
- Create a lasting project





# Yamhill County Historical Society & Museum

- Founded in 1957
- Located in Lafayette
- Museum, Research Room, Genealogical Society
- Open Wed, Fri and Sat 10-4





# The Project

- Research Business/Economic climate of McMinnville circa 1895-1910
- Formulate into cohesive publication
- Use a variety of resources
  - Research Room Archives
  - Microfilm at Linfield: *Yamhill County Reporter*
  - Personal Knowledge from Excavations





# Research Room





# Research Room

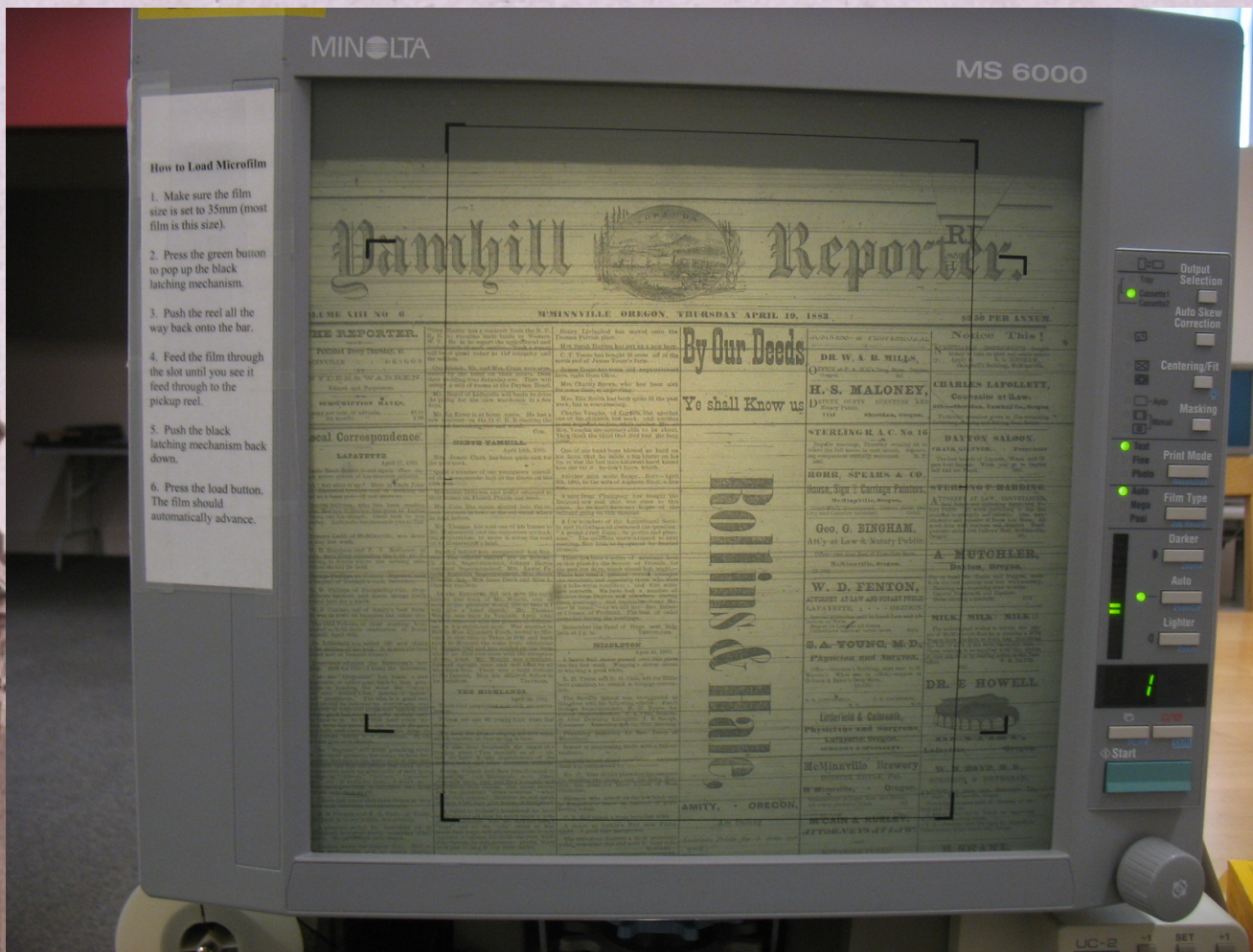


S. Main St., McMinnville, Ore.

17953



# Linfield's Nicholson Library





# Linfield's Nicholson Library



**Sunset Ice Cream**

Try it; it will  
melt in your  
mouth.

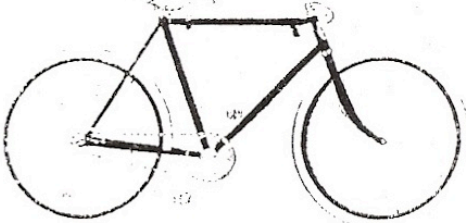
**New Age Bakery--J. Nowak & Son**  
Agents for McMinnville.

FALL TERM OF

**McMinnville College**

COMMENCES SEPT. 18, 1894.

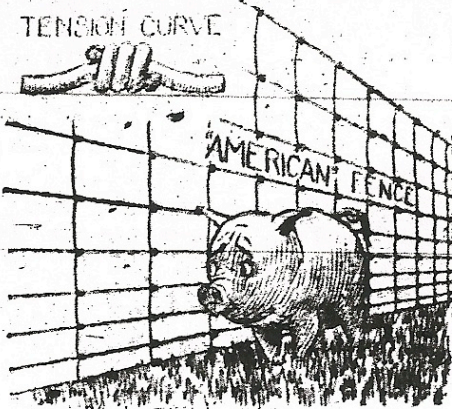
**Bicycles! Bicycles!! Bicycles!!!**



COLUMBIA,  
TRIBUNE,  
RAMBLER  
AND HARTFORD  
Bicycles, standard makes and  
latest patterns at

**JACOBSON & DeHAVEN Co's.**

TENSION CURVE



**Reed's Fence is Best on Earth  
For the Money.**

Ranch or Residence. Hard,  
Galvanized Steel Wire.

Made in Six Heights, 18 to 58 in. High.

**McMinnville Fence Works,**  
McMINNVILLE, OR.

"Wooh! Reed has fenced us out forever!"



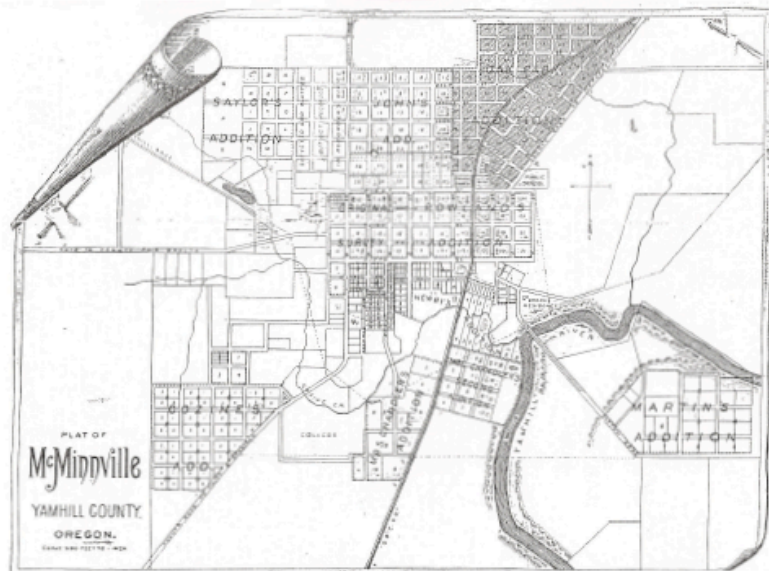
# Personal Knowledge





# The Finished Product

An Extensive Analysis of the Business and Economic Climate  
of McMinnville, Oregon from 1895-1910



Researched and Compiled by Brian Richardson



A collaborative project in association with Linfield College and The Yamhill County Historical Society



Produced 2010

An Extensive Analysis  
of the Business and  
Economic Climate of  
McMinnville, Oregon  
from 1895-1910

- 58 Pages
- Covers all industries
- Media rich



## Bottled Merchandise, 1895-1910

The products sold at grocery stores often came in glass containers. The following are a few food-related bottles that have been discovered in McMinnville, offering an insightful look at local consumption habits



**Fruit Jars**

Grocers sold both empty fruit jars, typically by the dozen, as well as reusable jars pre-filled with any variety of contents. They were often used until broken, although the occasional whole example does turn up in digs, such as the Everlasting Jar above.



**Extracts**

Flavoring extracts from over ten different companies have been excavated in McMinnville. The example shown above was put out by the Northrup and Sturgis Company of Portland, Oregon.



**Pickles**

San Francisco-based Pacific Vinegar and Pickle Works distributed several of their products throughout Oregon. The bottle above likely contained pickles and dates to the 1890's



**Capers**

Capers are the cooked and pickled flower buds of a bramblelike southern European shrub. Used to flavor food, they were very popular in the Victorian era and were packaged in tall fluted green bottles.



**Root Beer**

Before selling root beer in liquid form, Hires sold root beer powder in small glass bottles for brewing root beer at home. The product was very popular and the bottles are often found in local pits.



**Olive Oil**

As is still the case today, olive oil was very popular at the turn of the twentieth century. Most olive oil bottles are tall, skinny and aqua. The Allen and Lewis Company of Portland put out a line of pure olive oils around 1900 in the attractive bottle seen above.



**Worcestershire Sauce**

Lea and Perrin's Worcestershire Sauce reached the height of its popularity in the late Victorian era. Hoards of the bottles have been discovered locally, as well as several competitors that tried to take away some of their business.



**Malted Milk**

Horick's malted milk was very popular in the early 1900's. Based in Racine, Wisconsin, the company had nationwide distribution.



**Clam Tea**

It is unclear what clam tea was, but over twenty small bottles from three different Washington companies appeared in local excavations



## The Blacksmith

### The McMinnville Blacksmith

As long as there were horses, there was a need for a blacksmith. By definition a blacksmith is a person that makes and repairs things in iron by hand, and thus the scope of their industry was well beyond horseshoes. However, horseshoes comprised a major part of their business and certainly was mentioned in every advertisement released by blacksmiths. One of McMinnville's original founders, Samuel Cozine, opened a blacksmith shop about where Linfield College stands today. Another blacksmithing pioneer in the city was Mr. C.D. Johnson. Johnson came to McMinnville from Canada in 1865 and opened a blacksmith shop. He improved his business over the years and at one time was running two shops before selling out to a Mr. Sutherland in 1897. He was mayor of McMinnville and served diligently in City Council. After getting out of the blacksmith trade he briefly made and sold buggies and carriages before heading to Alaska with his son to find gold. He eventually returned to McMinnville and opened a general merchandise business.

Another successful blacksmith was David Fletcher, who operated a blacksmith shop across third street from the Yamhill Hotel until the Elberton Hotel was constructed on the site in 1905. His advertisement from 1898 is shown to the right. Also prominent in the industry was Edward Sutherland, who advertised in 1892 "E.F. Sutherland, Practical Horse Shoer. Draft, track or road horses. A specialty made of treating horses' feet. Shop corner of third and E. Sts." It was he who in 1897 purchased the Johnson Blacksmith shop on B street. As noted in the *Yamhill County Reporter*, "his anvil is heard to ring from early morn till dewy eve." The 1900 census lists several additional blacksmiths; William Morris, William Boath, Armand Flobier, D.B. Cass, Warren Neal, Edgar Cox, Henry Grinnuld, and J.M. Brown. While some of these men may have had a shop in town, others likely were a blacksmith by trade but out of work due to the condition of established blacksmiths already dispersed throughout McMinnville.



**Buggies, Surreys, Plows.**

Now is your chance to buy a good Buggy, Surrey, or Plow. Our stock is large and we will be glad to

**Reduced Prices for 5 Days,**

As I contemplate a change in my business

**C. D. JOHNSON.**

**D. C. FLETCHER & CO.**

Specialties: Blacksmithing and shoeing. Do first class horse shoeing. Track or road shoeing done in the best style of the art. Plans and drawing machinery repaired.

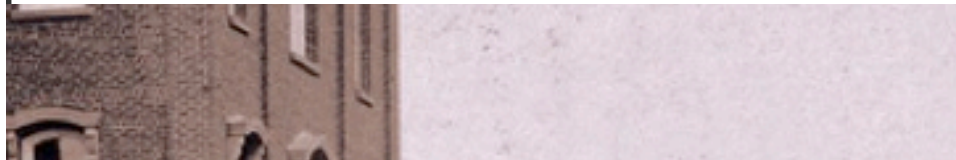
Shop Opposite Hotel Yamhill.



Top: C.D. Johnson's Blacksmith compound on B street as it appeared in 1892. Note that he interspersed blacksmith shops with wagon shops and a carriage repair shop. Also shown is an ad he released about 1899

Above: D.C. Fletcher's 1898 ad, noting his ability to horseshoe for track or road

Left: G.J. Scott's McMinnville blacksmith shop in the 19-teens. At this time the horseshoe trade was quickly dissipating due to the emergence of the automobile. Blacksmiths soon found themselves out of work and forced into other industries.





# Channels of Distribution

- Multiple copies at YCHS
- Linfield Library
- Available online for free download:

<http://www.mediafire.com/?nzngidm3wnz>





# What I Have Learned

## Practical Skills

- Research Methods
- Writing Skills
- Microfilm Mastery

## Personal Skills

- Deeper understanding of McMinnville
- Better understand of my capabilities
- Appreciation for Historical Society





# Meeting the Goals of the Internship

- ✓ Exploratory opportunity to work with an organization in the local community
- ✓ Interdisciplinary interaction with peers through periodic seminars
- ✓ Training and support in documenting and presenting the work done in my internship

