

2016 BMHS Officers

President:
Paula Moisiso

Vice-President:
John Hutchens

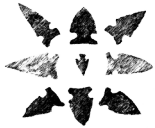
Secretary:
Dallas Dickinson

Treasurer:
Mary Harri

Directors:
Rose Engelbrite
Barbara Carlton

Newsletter - Diane Longanecker

The Palus
Museum



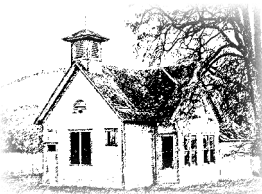
426 East Main Street
Dayton, Washington

Visit Both BMHS Museums!

Fridays 1 pm to 4 pm
Saturdays 1 pm to 4 pm
April – November

Or Year Round By Appointment Email:
bluemountainheritage@gmail.com

Smith Hollow
Country Schoolhouse



113 North Front Street
Dayton, Washington

Blue Mountain
Heritage Society

— Board Meets Monthly —

• 2nd Thursday – 9:00 am

• Palus Museum Annex
Dayton, Washington

Everyone is
Welcome!

Help Capture Columbia County's Past!

Salvage Dawgs, a popular DIY Network television show that follows one business's efforts to reclaim and renew pieces of US History, starts off each episode with this narrative: "Every day, historic buildings across America are being torn down and what's inside can be lost or destroyed forever."

While Blue Mountain Heritage Society is not in the building-salvage business, we do have a mission to preserve the past. We recognize the need for looking after the important pieces of history that were key in building our community. For us, it's about telling the story of our heritage.

Yet, every year in Columbia County, old items are tossed aside or destroyed. And upon the death of any long-time resident, a piece of our history fades away.

With each donated item we receive—and with each picture that comes our way—we know the real value is in making sure we follow the famous words of Paul Harvey and tell "the rest of the story."

Since the opening of the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse, we have been gathering many historical, school-related items. These are currently on display. In addition, the Dayton School District has generously loaned us several sets of old records that show district and student information from as far back as the late 1880s. We have also had the opportunity to access class lists from the Dayton High School from 1886 to 1944—these are currently being digitized. As part of our annual Dayton High School Class

Challenge, we are often left with the task of determining what year someone graduated, and we frequently get questions about past Columbia County students. In short, the class lists, combined with the pictures of graduating classes (which are on the community tab on the Dayton School District website and at the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse) are an important resource of our area's history.

With the class cards and group pictures, we can help to "tell the story." A good example is Charles Garner, whose picture accompanies this article. Fortunately, the photograph has his name on the back. So, we referenced the student cards and determined that Charles graduated in May of 1893. Looking through our collection of family history notebooks, we found nine-year-old Charles listed in the

1885 census along with his parents, Wilson M. and Marie E. Garner. Mr. Garner was listed as a mechanic and then later as a carpenter who hailed from Canada and England. A note dated May 1898 states that Charles was a private in Company F of the First Washington Infantry, U.S. Volunteers. And so, with the help of this one photograph, we are able to begin to tell a story.

Is your family history being documented? Don't discard those old pictures and documents from the past. Instead, please check out the possibilities

for donating (or loaning) your items to an historical group. You'll be helping to capture Columbia County's story so it can be preserved and shared with others.



BMHS - President's Message

Preserving the diverse history of Columbia County and Southeastern Washington's *past* is our organization's focus. Of equal importance, however, is providing as many people as possible with access to that information *today*.

With this dual goal in mind, we are

developing our website, increasing our presence on Facebook, and digitizing our genealogical records. And at both museum sites, we now have posted QR codes for smart phones.

In short, although our focus is on preserving items and information about the past, we are diligently working on

embracing current technology to help in preserving—and sharing—that past.

Sadly, we mark the passing of Owen Agenbroad, long-time member, former board member, and originator of the BMHS *Ground "Hog" Sausage Fest*. Our thoughts are with his family.

Paula Moiso, President BMHS

News Briefs

What the Heck is a QR Code? – A Quick Response or QR code is a unique machine-readable symbol of black and white squares used to store information. We now have QR codes displayed at the Palus Museum and the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse.



Schoolhouse

While we have maintained our goal of keeping both museums open from 1 to 4 on Friday and Saturday afternoons from April through November (along with special tours), this leaves many days when we are closed.

That's where the QR codes come in. By scanning the symbol with an app-enabled smart phone



Palus

connected to the internet, a viewer is taken to a YouTube link where a virtual tour of each of our museums can be viewed.

While it's not as ideal as seeing the museum in person, it can give visitors a brief glimpse of what's inside. Try it! Download a free QR Code scanner application to your smart phone. Then click on the QR codes here and take a virtual tour of each museum. Special thanks to Board Member Dallas Dickinson for her research on QR codes and for her time to create the tours!



Nadine's "Shoebbox" Newsletters – Nadine Dieringer felt that connecting to Columbia County's past helped enrich our community. So, from 1993 to 2009, she frequently published a one-page, homespun newsletter she made freely available around Dayton. Each issue of *From Dayton's Main Street and More* contained past events that had appeared in the local newspaper. Nadine passed away in 2013. Her husband Jack

Reserve the Date!

Annual Meeting

BMHS's Annual Meeting is **Thursday, December 8th at 5:30 pm** in the Delany Building, 111 S 3rd St, Dayton. Come enjoy our traditional Soup Supper followed by a special presentation! The event is free and everyone is invited. So, bring your family, neighbors, and friends. *We'll see you all there!*



Dieringer recently donated the entire set of newsletters to BMHS. Included was Nadine's much favored "shoebbox." It contains a collection of information she referenced when creating a newsletter. On our upcoming website, visitors will soon be able to search the digitized newsletters for a name or topic of interest. But be forewarned! The historical tidbits in these newsletters can easily sidetrack a reader.

A Genealogical Treasure Trove – Liz Carson has painstakingly dedicated many years to gathering family histories of area citizens. In preparation for making this information available at BMHS's forthcoming website, we have digitized, so far, about 110 notebooks or about half of the information. These records include abstracts, family trees, obituaries, and local news stories of Columbia County citizens. For hands-on access, the notebooks will be on display at the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse. We can't thank Liz Carson enough for the tremendous effort she has put in gathering the information and her ongoing help in getting the material ready to be accessible for all to see!

Shop Amazon, Help Fund BMHS – Using *AmazonSmile* is a simple, automatic way to

support BMHS, at no cost to you, when you shop amazon.com. Here's how it works: Instead of logging on directly to Amazon, be sure to go to smile.amazon.com. Then select Blue Mountain Heritage Society in Dayton WA as your chosen charitable organization and begin shopping! In return, the *AmazonSmile Foundation* will donate 0.5% of your purchase price (from your eligible purchases) to BMHS. We appreciate the help; it can add up. So, pass this information on to your family and friends!

Who is this Mystery Lady? – Recently, this photograph of a beautiful lady was dropped off at Dayton's St. Vincent DePaul. Store volunteers quickly realized that the photo might be of local interest; they offered it to BMHS. It was taken by a Seattle photographer, but the photo contains no other details. Based on dress style, Mary Luce estimates the picture to be from the 1930s.



Since preserving an item from the past includes capturing the details, we are hoping readers might provide us with the "rest of the story" about this "mystery woman." Does she have a connection to Columbia

County? What's her name? Please, if you have any information, contact us by email at bluemountainheritage@gmail.com.

Coming BMHS Events

Dec 8, 2016 - Thursday, 5:30 pm

BMHS Soup Supper Annual Meeting

Delany Building, 111 S 3rd St, Dayton, WA

Feb - Ground Hog Dinner • Mar - Spring Bingo!

