

Women Also Served

Throughout the history of Columbia County, there are frequent referrals to the “local boys” who fought for our country. However, it should also be noted that an important part of history includes the women who also served.

In the Columbia County WWI records, Mary Lyman is listed as a Red Cross nurse who served in France.

Leah Range also served as a Red Cross nurse. Both Lyman and Range are honored with red crosses on the WWI Service Flag, which is part of this year’s veterans exhibit at Dayton’s Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse.

Katherine “Kay” Applegate Dussaq was born in Dayton in August 1905

and later moved with her family to Harrington, where she graduated from High School. In August of 1943, Katherine entered flight training to become a WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots). She graduated in February 1944, was initially stationed in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and was later transferred to San Antonio, Texas.

Katherine was killed on the night of November 26, 1944 when the plane she was flying on an administrative cross-country flight crashed near New Carlisle, Ohio.

Notably, the WASPs were considered civil service employees. It was not until 1977 that they were finally granted military status and recognized as veterans of World War II.



Using AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way to support BMHS, at no cost to you. Here’s how it works: Instead of logging on directly to Amazon, go to smile.amazon.com. Select Blue Mountain Heritage Society in Dayton WA as your chosen charitable organization and begin shopping! From your eligible purchases, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to BMHS. We appreciate the help—it can add up. So, pass this information on to your family and friends!

A Local Paper’s Role

While gathering information for our 2017 display honoring veterans, we were reminded of the impact a local newspaper has on historical records.

Today’s *Dayton Chronicle* provides a tremendous service keeping us informed by reporting on Dayton City Council and Columbia County Commissioners meetings, local sports events, school activities, deaths, and births. Even the advertisements are enlightening. However, as we searched successfully for information about local veterans, the paper’s most important role became evident: preserving history.

We are proud to support and honor the work that Loyal and Charlotte Baker (and the many publishers/editors before them) are doing every week reporting the news—and documenting history as it is being made!

Preserver of Local History: Liz Carson

As we launched efforts to honor Columbia County veterans, we turned to our dedicated member and volunteer extraordinaire, Liz Carson, for historical guidance.

Over the past 18 years, Liz has compiled more than 125 three-ring binders packed with news clippings, documents, and family information—all of which BMHS volunteers and Liz have spent months digitizing. This set of material has come to be informally known as *The Columbia County Family History Collection*.

So it came as no surprise to learn that, securely locked away in a safe, the American Legion had a huge volume of information on veterans, also compiled by Liz Carson.

Fortunately, the American Legion and Liz graciously shared the information with BMHS. The documents have been copied and scanned. Beginning April 1, they will be available to view at the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse as part of the display to honor veterans.

Over the nearly two decades that Liz has dedicated to compiling local history, one can only imagine the



Liz Carson with the extensive collection of local family histories she has assembled. - photo by Vicki Zoller
Liz Carson with the extensive collection of local family histories she has assembled. This seventy-eight-year-old history buff is a positive force who continues to assist us in our endeavors to gather, sort, organize, and digitize our area’s historical information and make it available to all in today’s formats.

Along with being an amazing source of information, Liz humbly takes on all that is asked. With her abiding respect for preserving and promoting historical documents, Liz volunteered for years at the Dayton Memorial Library. Now BMHS honors and appreciates the work she has done—and she continues to do—contributing to and helping preserve our local history. Liz Carson is truly a remarkable person, one we are glad to call our friend and supporter.

Coming BMHS Events

Apr 8, 2017 - Sat 3-7 pm - Spring BINGO!
Dayton Elementary School, 302 E Park St, Dayton

Apr - Nov - Fri & Sat 1 pm-4 pm (or by special appointment) Smith Hollow Country School House and Palus Museum

Apr 1 - Grand Opening of the Veterans Display in the back of Smith Hollow Country School House

May 6 - Sat - BMHS Yard Sale at the Palus Museum. Donation of items to be sold are much appreciated! *No clothing please.*

Memorial Weekend - Special events planned for the Veterans Display

PO Box 163
Dayton, WA 99328



A Look Back: World War One - 100th Anniversary

by Paula Moisiso, BMHS President

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war against Germany. His request was granted on April 6, 1917, and the United States was officially at war, joining allied forces from Britain, France, and Russia. Now, 100 years since that great “war-to-end-all-wars” began, we take a local perspective and look back.

While the country was gearing up for the international

war, cities and towns across the nation were also doing their part. Our hometown paper reported that there was a patriotic rally at the courthouse in Dayton on April 6, 1917. The mayor set aside the entire week as patriotic week and flags were flown on businesses, homes, and vehicles of all types. The presence of all Columbia County citizens was requested and they



Continued on Page 2

Display Honors Columbia County Veterans



The 100-year anniversary of our country’s entry into WWI is a good time to honor all local veterans. So the title of this year’s display in the back room at the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse is *Honoring Local Veterans*.

To showcase the tremendous contribution area veterans have made to our community and country, the presentation features uniforms, artifacts, stories, and pictures from all wars

dating back to the Indian Wars and the Civil War. Items on loan from the American Legion, the Dayton Historical Depot Society, and area citizens are combined with items that have been generously donated to the Blue Mountain Heritage Society.

Please visit the display—as well as the Columbia County Veterans Memorial on Dayton’s Main Street. *And remember to tell a veteran that you appreciate his or her service.*

- 2017 BMHS Officers**
- President:** Paula Moisiso
 - Vice-President:** Roslyn Edwards
 - Secretary:** Mary Harri
 - Treasurer:** Dallas Dickinson
 - Directors:** Barbara Carlton, Duane Dunlap, Rose Engelbrite, John Hutchens, Doug Johnson

Newsletter - Diane Longanecker and Paula Moisiso

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
Delany Building
111 South Third Street
Dayton, Washington

Everyone is Welcome!

Anniversary - from Page 1

rallied in force to show support for the president, the flag, and the country. Planning began for a parade to be held a few days later.

Over 5,000 people took part in that patriotic parade to honor the enlisted soldiers and to support President Wilson as the war became inevitable. The streets were lined with flag-waving citizens. The parade featured a marching band, students and teachers from the local schools, Red Cross members, boy scouts, and other passionate supporters.

Even prior to the patriotic rally, Columbia County boys began signing up to serve their country. As early as March 1916 the Walla Walla Company K was called out for active services in the United States Army. Initially, the company was charged with guarding bridges, railroads, and other state property. But eventually, the company was sent to protect the Mexico Border before going overseas. Highlights from the local paper follow Company K as well as the progression of increased efforts to recruit locally. Consequently, by the time Dayton's rally occurred, the list of local boys lining up to serve their country was impressive.

As the war took shape, it became evident that more men were needed. To comply with the new Federal Draft Law, according to June 1917 news articles, 609 young men in Dayton and Columbia County appeared at the registration booths. The drawing of lots for the selective draft took place in Washington D.C. in July 1917. Nearly 60 local boys were notified to appear for a physical examination.

By August 1917, a list was published of our area's young men who were certified by the military board. Placements were made to the Officers Reserve, Army, Navy, cavalry, infantry, field artillery, machine gun battalion, medical corps, Aviation Corps, Signal Corps, and Engineer Corps—and even to the Red Cross as nurses. The names listed in the newspaper reflected a tremendous sacrifice by the community. And it didn't stop there: more recruiting and drafting continued through the next year. In total 465 men from Dayton had been inducted into the military during the WWI era.

Then, very quickly, the reality of the war began to reach the local papers. News articles changed from the exuberant celebrations sending soldiers off to battle, to the gruesome reports of soldier's being maimed or killed. Obituaries of Columbia County soldiers began to appear, noting the brave actions and ultimate sacrifice they had made while protecting the United States of America and our allies.

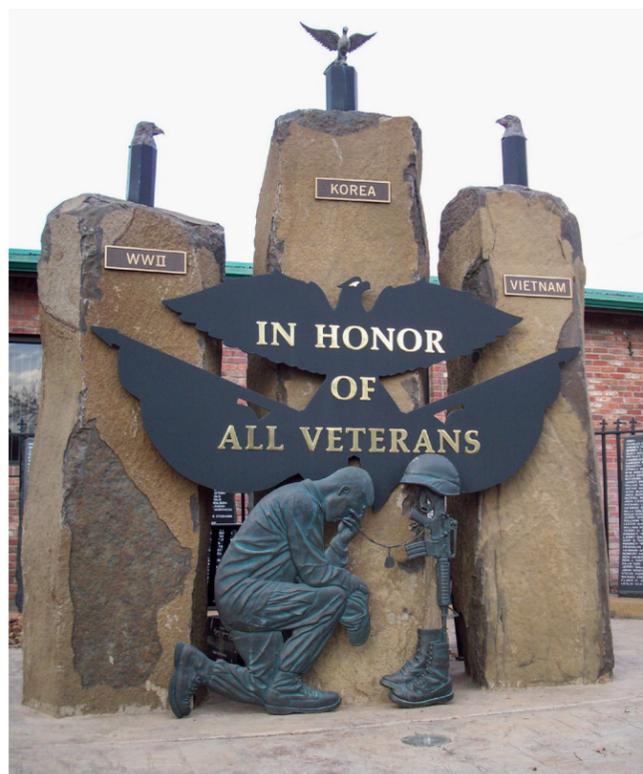
It is because of these brave soldiers—as well as the many more who served before WWI and since—that Blue Mountain Heritage Society is proud to honor all local veterans on the 100-year anniversary of our country's entry into World War I. This newsletter is dedicated to all Veterans of Columbia County. The mission of BMHS is to preserve the history of Southeastern Washington. And preserving the history and the memories of those who have served is one of the most important undertakings we have ever accepted.

Brian Black: A Man with a Vision

About 12 years ago, Brian Black—a local veteran and member of the Dayton American Legion Frank E. Bauers Post 42—had a vision: He recognized the need to ensure local veterans had a permanent memorial in Columbia County. Brian worked diligently with fellow American Legion members toward making the vision a reality. They enlisted the help of others and during a three-year process, the group focused on fundraising, planning, and property acquisition.

Simultaneously, names to appear on the wall—those of honorably discharged veterans buried or whose ashes had been spread in Columbia County—were gathered and checked.

Additional names are added every year. The memorial was built with volunteer labor. Donations of rock, materials, and funds brought the project to fruition. Finally, on June 13, 2009, a large American flag was raised over the memorial, in time for Flag Day June 14th. The Columbia County Veterans Memorial operates under the 501(c)(3) nonprofit designation of the Blue Mountain Heritage Society. Each year, the two groups join efforts to host **Spring Bingo**, a fundraising project that helps pay for the upkeep and maintenance of the flag and memorial wall. This year's event takes place from 3 to 7 pm on April 8th in Dayton's Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room.



The American Legion Frank E. Bauers Post 42

(Excerpts from an article written by Carla Rowe, compiled from research from C.B. Polly)

Dayton's American Legion Frank E. Bauers Post 42 began in 1919, the same year the national organization was chartered and incorporated by Congress as a patriotic veterans organization. Bauers—a member of Company M, 361st Infantry, 91st Division—was wounded in the battle of Argonne in France on October 2, 1918. He died nine days later. The post was formed to honor Bauers and other locals who fought for their country in WWI. In July 1919 a Dispatch story titled "Columbia's War Record" (from a history kept by Judge Chester F. Miller) listed 13 names of local men who died in battle or as a result of war injuries. Twenty-six others were noted as having been gassed or wounded.

Although the post was formed to honor veterans, it quickly became an organization that also served the community. The group hosted Sweetheart and Fireman Balls, potluck

dinners, they supported needy families and children in the area, and worked diligently to keep in touch with enlisted servicemen, often sending them care packages. The group also raised money for the Soldier's Memorial Library fund and helped out where needed in the community with projects such as gathering firewood for the elderly.

By 1928, the legion had 155 members. In 1945 the membership dropped to 85, but it was boosted to 321 in 1946 with the emergence of WWII.

The current location of the legion post at 211 East Clay was once a Christian Science church owned and operated by Ben Turner of Covello. Upon his death, Ben's wife donated it to the Legion.

Following many active years, the Legion entered a period of dormancy that lasted about two decades.

In January 2007, it was resurrected by a board made up of Jim Harting, Eric Thorn, Jim Korsberg, Kent Shockley,

Records Reach Back More Than 150 Years

Local historical records do a thorough job of documenting Columbia County soldiers in WWII and WWI. Records also cover the American Civil War and the Indian Wars of the mid-1850s.

Gilderoy Holderman, for example, was a Civil War veteran. He came west to Dayton in 1879 from Bates County Missouri. He settled in Bundy Hollow, Columbia County, and sent for his wife and children.

Mr. Holderman and his wife Sara Jane had nine children, who were all born in Missouri except their last child. Arthur Benson was born in Dayton in February 1883. When Arthur was nine months old, his father died.

Gilderoy Holderman was 50 years of age when he died in



Dayton due to complications from a Civil War wound; twenty years earlier, a musket ball had penetrated his lung at the Battle of Honey Springs, an area that later became part of Oklahoma.

Gilderoy Holderman survived the battle, yet still ended up paying war's ultimate price.

Bob Budig, Owen Agenbroad, Bob Warren, Gene Turner, Tim Hoskins, and Brian Black as this group began work on Dayton's Columbia County Veterans Memorial (see story page 2).

The American Legion Frank E. Bauers Post 42 remains active today with 50 members who continue to serve our community with their annual Memorial Day breakfast, participation in local parades, and, most importantly, their steadfast presence at funerals to honor the passing of local veterans.