

# News Briefs

**Fresh Coat of Protective Paint** – The exterior of the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse received a new coat of paint, giving it a fresh



look that will help keep the 117 year old building from deteriorating. The work



was done by 4 Seasons Color, Inc (Walla Walla/Kennewick); they specialize in painting historic buildings. Repainting was part of the building's long-term maintenance plan. The cost was covered by the endowment fund that our generous donors helped establish, with matching funds from the Sherwood Trust.

**Veteran's Display** – Come in before it leaves and see the Columbia County Veteran's Display in the back of the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse. The display has been very popular since its debut in April. We are having discussions about a permanent location to house the display and will be working with the local American Legion Post to determine the best placement for its future.

**A Nice Turnout** – On Saturday, October 7, the community's annual one-day event, *Dayton on Tour*, brought many visitors to town. As a result, museum docents Dallas Dickinson and Roslyn Edwards had more than a hundred guests tour the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse. Over on

Main Street at the Palus Museum, docent Rose Engelbrite also had a good turnout.

**New Sign Installed** – There is a new sign at the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse; it tells the school's story. Columbia County Commissioners approved funding for the sign out of dollars earmarked for tourism-related projects. The design complements local efforts to standardize signage along Dayton's Main Street. Now, visitors stopping by after hours—or folks strolling along Dayton's Historic Pathway—can read about the school. Those with smartphones can also access a short video, via the Internet, using the QR Code at the bottom of the sign.



**Sidewalk Improves Access** - Last year, when a group of senior citizens from Booker Rest Home planned a visit to the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse, an access issue came to light; graveled pathways are barriers to



wheelchairs. Thus, the visit was cancelled, and plans to upgrade the walkway were promptly set into motion. Thanks to a generous grant from the Columbia County Fund and to Tanner Steinhoff of Steinhoff Construction LLC, concrete sidewalks now lead up to the schoolhouse and to the newly-relocated Dodge Quarantine Cabin.

## amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives. 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](http://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!

## Annual Meeting Reserve the Date!

BMHS's Annual Meeting is **Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 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!*

## Coming BMHS Events

- Nov 24, 2017 - Friday**  
**Dayton's Christmas Kickoff** - The Palus Museum and Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse will be open extended hours and will then close for the winter months.
- Dec 14, 2017 - Thursday, 5:30 pm**  
**BMHS Soup Supper Annual Meeting**  
Delany Building, 111 S 3rd St, Dayton, WA
- Feb 3, 2018 - Saturday, 5:30 pm**  
**Ground "Hog" Dinner** - Youth Building, Columbia County Fairgrounds, Dayton, WA
- Apr 8, 2018 - Saturday, 3-7 pm** **SPRING BINGO**  
Dayton Elementary School, 302 E Park St, Dayton
- Apr - Nov 2018 - Friday & Saturday, 1-4 pm** (or by special appointment) **Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse** and **Palus Museum** open
- May 5, 2018 - Saturday - BMHS Yard Sale**  
Palus Museum - Donation of items to be sold are much appreciated! *No clothing please.*

PO Box 163  
Dayton, WA 99328

Blue Mountain Heritage Society  
Dedicated to preserving the diverse history of southeastern Washington



### 2017 BMHS Officers

**President:**  
Paula Moisio

**Vice-President:**  
Roslyn Edwards

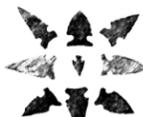
**Secretary:**  
Mary Harri

**Treasurer:**  
Dallas Dickinson

**Directors:**  
Barbara Carlton  
Duane Dunlap  
Rose Engelbrite  
John Hutchens  
Doug Johnson

Newsletter - Diane Longanecker and Paula Moisio

## 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](mailto: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!*



The Society's Newest Attraction

# 119-Year-Old Quarantine Cabin

by Paula Moisio, BMHS President

In Dayton, you need not look far to enjoy reminders of our local history. For example, several carefully restored structures—the Columbia County Courthouse (built in 1887), the Boldman House (built in 1880), the Dayton Depot (built in 1881) and the Blue Mountain Historical Society's (BMHS) very own Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse (built in 1900)—all stand as attractive testaments to the rich and varied history of Columbia County.

### Treasure in Our Midst

Recently, another local gem was "discovered" and has since found a new home next to the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse.

Last spring, Dayton residents Eric and Cyndi Sams graciously offered to donate a small cabin (that stood behind their house on West Richmond Street) to BMHS. Since our mission involves preserving the history of southeastern Washington, plans began immediately for the

cabin's relocation and restoration. The arduous task of learning more about the history of the cabin was taken on by BMHS member Dallas Dickinson. With the help of Eric and Cyndi Sams, Tamara Fritze of the Dayton Historical Depot Society, BMHS's resident historian Liz Carson and our friends at the local courthouse, Dallas was able to document the details that helped to "tell the story" about this structure.

### Cabin's History

The house in front of the cabin was built in 1885 by John L. Dittmore and sold to the Dodge family in 1890. John and Mary Dodge had a son, Wesley, age 18, who was in the army and left home to fight in the Spanish-American War in 1898. Wesley Dodge was a Private in the U.S. Army, 1st Regiment of

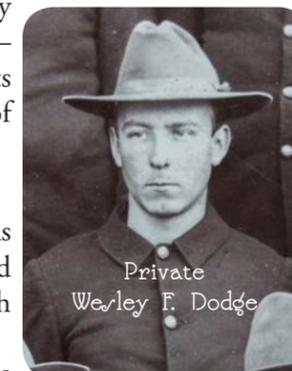


Photo Courtesy:  
Dayton Historical Depot Society

Washington Infantry Volunteers, Company F.

At the end of the Spanish-American War, common practice was to quarantine returning

Quarantine Cabin - continued from Page 1



The cabin in its original location.

soldiers for 30 days as a precaution against diseases that plagued the war zones. The Dodge family, likely wanting to have their son as close as possible, built the small but functional cabin in their backyard. The proximity to his family—and to mom’s home cooking—would have been just what the soldier needed during his quarantine period as he acclimated to being back home.

In the years that followed, the cabin was used as a guest cabin, a playhouse and for storage. Although showing signs of age and in need of a few repairs, the 119-year-old, 13-foot by 13-foot log structure remained sound enough to be ripe for restoration!

### Dismantling and Relocating Phase

To do the cabin historical justice and insure its structural integrity, BMHS hired Pillars of Society Woodworking, LLC, a state-licensed construction contractor out of Richland, Washington, that specializes in restoration of old buildings. The two-man team of Rick Nicely and Beau Sabin



Rick Nicely works on the cabin’s interior.

undertook the dismantling, moving and rebuilding of the cabin with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and reverence for preserving its historical importance. The process was painstakingly detailed: Before taking the structure apart one nail at a time, Rick and Beau carefully labeled each individual component. In addition, the

foundation around the cabin’s interior was carefully hand excavated and the dirt sifted through. This process yielded several items: a horseshoe, a long wooden spoon/stick, an unbroken early-day light bulb and even small lumps of coal from a long-gone stove. All unearthed treasures will be on display in the cabin when it opens to the public in the spring of 2018.

### Just Like Lincoln Logs

Anyone who enjoyed playing with Lincoln Logs as a child can imagine how a cabin is constructed—one log at a time—using care and caution to insure a sound, solid structure that will stand tall for more than a century. Time had eroded some of the original parts of this cabin, so the re-construction team had to find similar materials to replace the needed parts. Working with local forestry officials, the Pillars of Society Woodworking crew accessed resources from the nearby forest. However, since it was fire season and a ban on chainsaw use in the woods was in effect, the team had to chop down the dead replacement trees they needed with an ax—just like the area’s original pioneers.

To replace interior boards that could not be salvaged, the team used reclaimed wood from a barn project they had recently completed in Colfax, Washington. Salvaging as much of the original

structure as possible was the primary mission. The work was done with care and precision to maintain the historical integrity. The end result is a beautiful structure that will survive for many generations to come!

### Making a Cabin a Home

It’s not hard to imagine how Mrs. Dodge would have done everything possible to provide a warm and inviting space to help her son enjoy his quarantine quarters. Blue Mountain Heritage Society has acquired some items that will replicate what the cabin would have looked like when it was originally furnished. To finish outfitting the quarantine

quarters, however, we are reaching out to our members for donations of the following:

- Small bed or cot
- Small wood stove/cook stove
- Curtains or material for curtains
- Bedding appropriate to the 1890s (sheets/blankets/quilts/pillows)

Our preference is to gather articles that are from southeastern Washington. If you have items that would be ideal for the cabin interior and would be willing to donate them, please contact us at [bluemountainheritage@gmail.com](mailto:bluemountainheritage@gmail.com).

### We love our supporters!!

– Donors, Contractors, Volunteers –

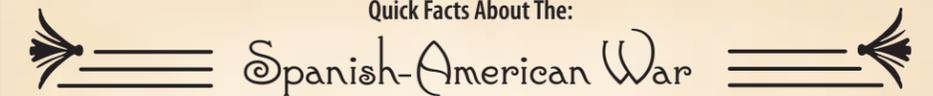


Eric and Cyndi Sams (left) visit with BMHS member Larry Fairchild about the cabin’s history.



Beau Sabin of Pillars of Society Woodworking, LLC, works carefully by hand to preserve any possible artifacts that might be buried near the foundation around the interior of the cabin. The process produced several items. At left (top) is a bottle and (below) is an unbroken early-day light bulb. Small pieces of coal were also found. All of the unearthed treasures will be on display in the cabin when it opens to the public in the spring of 2018.

### Quick Facts About The:



**Who:** The Spanish-American War was waged by the United States of America (along with Cuban and Filipino revolutionaries) against Spain.

**When:** April 21, 1898 to August 13, 1898. The war lasted 3 months, 3 weeks and 2 days.

**Where:** Battles occurred in the Spanish colonies of Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippine Islands and Guam.

**Role of Disease:** Disease proved more deadly than battle. The U.S. forces suffered 2,061 deaths due

to heat exhaustion and mosquito-borne disease—especially yellow fever, which crippled the American occupation forces. In Cuba, disease rendered 75% of U.S. soldiers unfit for service. However, the number of Spanish soldiers dying from disease was greater: an estimated 15,000.

**Result:** The United States of America was the victor. Spain relinquished its control over Cuba. Spain also ceded Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippine Islands to the U.S. for a \$20 million payment (for infrastructure).