

What's Happening in 2019?

by Paula Moisio, BMHS President

The new year is shaping up to be a very busy one for the Blue Mountain Heritage Society. During the first quarter of 2019, our focus is on exhibits, which are being updated and reworked—some will be moved to new locations.

For example, the display honoring Columbia County veterans that has been temporarily located in the back of the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse, will soon have a permanent home. Its new digs will be the Palus Museum, located across from the Veterans Flag Memorial on Dayton's Main Street. To expand this exhibit, which honors county veterans from the American Civil War up through current conflicts, we will once again be collaborating with the American Legion Frank E. Bauers Post 42.

The pioneer and homestead items currently located in the Palus Annex will now be featured in the back of the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse. The Lewis and Clark displays—along with the Palus Indian artifacts—will take up residence in the Palus Annex.

Continued from Page 3

Her father died serving the Union. She mentioned seeing him while she was on duty—without him recognizing her.

A detailed account of her adventures appeared in a 1915 *Columbia County Dispatch* article. She was married three times, first to widower Amos C. Short (store owner) in Marengo, then to Edgar F. Buttolph, a Columbia County pioneer, and finally, at the age of 74, to Augustus Algever.

She was active in the W.R.C. (Women's Relief Corps) and served as chaplain of the order. At the time of her death in 1923, she resided in a veteran's home in Kitsap County, Washington, where she lived with her third husband, Augustus Algever.

(Information for this group of stories was gleaned from articles found on Find-A-Grave memorial, Ancestry.com, and from Columbia County newspaper abstracts. Recognition and thanks go to Liz Carson for compiling much of this background material along with birth, marriage, and death notices into binders she donated to the Society. These digitized documents can be found at the society's website: <http://bluemountainheritage.org>)

We invite you to stop by at all locations when they re-open in April 2019, from 1-4 pm on Fridays and Saturdays through November.

Due to the anticipated remodel of the Youth Building at Columbia County Fairgrounds, the annual BMHS Ground Hog Dinner for 2019 has been cancelled. This annual dinner is set to return in February of 2020.

The ongoing digitization of local historical records and documents continues. Since we are seeing a big increase in folks doing genealogical research, it's most helpful to now be able to direct them to our Columbia County Family History pages at our website: bluemountainheritage.org.

Interviews with local citizens continue to be a major focus of the society. Randy and Terri James have been actively working on recording the oral histories of our community members. This pair completed several interviews in 2018; they have many more planned for 2019. The videos are staged in an informal setting, and the comfortable conversations, reminiscing on days gone by in Columbia County, have been a welcome way to record memories that might otherwise be forgotten.

Smith Hollow Schoolmarm - 1912

Presented by Miss Edwards, our wonderful special-occasion schoolmarm at Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse (a.k.a. Roz Edwards, BMHS Vice-President)

Good morning, class. Today, while the younger students work on their addition and multiplication recitations, I will give the 8th graders sample ciphering and word problems in preparation for their end-of-year Arithmetic Exam. Eighth graders, I want you to relax. Remember that today's questions will not be graded. Instead, we will go over your answers together. By the time we finish, you will have a good start on preparing for the final certificate exam in June. Pencils and paper ready?

First, we will start with a fun math and logic word puzzle:

While I was traveling to St. Ives, I met a man with 7 wives.

Each wife had 7 sacks.

Each sack had 7 cats.

Each cat had 7 kits. Kits, cats, sacks and wives, how many were going to St. Ives? — Answer: 1!

And now for the sample test questions:

1. A school enrolled 120 pupils and the number of boys was $\frac{2}{3}$ of the number of girls. How many of each sex were enrolled?

2. Find the cost at 12.5 cents per square yard of kalsoming to do the walls of a room 20 ft long, 16 ft wide, and 9 ft high, deducting 1 door 8 ft x 4 ft 6 in, and 2 windows 5 ft x 3 ft 6 in.

3. A man bought a farm for \$2,400 and sold it for \$2,700. What percent did he gain?

4. How long a rope is required to reach from the top of a building 40 ft high to the ground, 30 ft from the base of the building? (HINT: Use the Pythagorean Theorem for Triangles)

5. At \$1.62 $\frac{1}{2}$ a cord, what will be the cost of a pile of wood 24 ft long x 4 ft wide and 6 ft 3 in high?

ANSWERS:

1. 72 girls, 48 boys; 2. \$8.01 (kalsoming, cheaper than paint, was a form of calcium based white wash); 3. 12.5%; 4. 50 feet; 5. \$7.62
Historical Note: In 1912, the average laborer earned about \$750 a year. In 2019, the average minimum wage laborer earns about \$20,000 a year. In 1912, a cord of wood might take a laborer 1-2 days to buy from his wages. Today, with wood costing \$150 to \$300 a cord, a wage earner would have to work 2-4 days to pay for a cord of wood.

PO Box 163
Dayton, WA 99328

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

Winter • 2019

2019 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 Team - Diane Longanecker,
Paula Moisio, Dallas Dickinson,
and Roslyn Edwards

The Palus Museum



426 East Main Street
Dayton, Washington

Visit Both BMHS Museums!

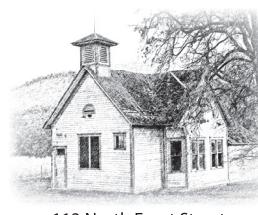
Fridays 1 pm to 4 pm

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!

Women in Columbia County's History

by Dallas Dickinson, BMHS Treasurer
and Paula Moisio, BMHS President

Our local history is rich with stories of women who had a crucial hand in helping form our communities. Through their behind-the-scenes work on day-to-day tasks or by being out front as part of extraordinary events, women had a role in shaping our region.

For example, Sacajawea (Sacagawea) was an integral part of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery, which traveled through our area in 1805 on its way to the Pacific Ocean and again in 1806 on the expedition's return trip east.

A few decades later, Margaret Gilbreath (wife of Samuel L. Gilbreath) was the first white woman to locate in what would become Columbia County. In 1860, she gave birth to a daughter, the first pioneer child born here.

Women who came and stayed or who were born here impacted the formation of our local communities. In this newsletter, we introduce you to four of them. Each contributed to our rich history. We honor them, as well as all women who have lived in our area.

THE Pioneer Woman

When Margaret Hannah Fanning married Samuel Love Gilbreath in 1859 in Linn, Oregon, she began an adventure: Margaret would be the *first* white woman to locate in what is now Columbia County.

Samuel was 34, Margaret 16. They moved to the homestead on which Samuel had lived for a short time. In the years following, they had 13 children, ten of which survived.

Mr. Gilbreath was active in farming and the grain warehouse business in Dayton. He lived to be 81 years old. Margaret died in 1922 at the age of 78. Both are buried in the Pioneer Memorial Cemetery west of Dayton.

the *Chronicle-Dispatch*, the paper from which I have lived from the day of my birth, November 11, 1891, until my death, April 29, 1948. In my childhood and early youth it sustained me, and from the time of my maturity until my final days of activity I served it in good times and bad under many masters, no years so pleasant as those with Pink and Pat.

"Through many decades I have assembled the



A Woman of Substance — Ernestine Peabody was the only child of Dayton residents Robert and Stella Peabody. Her father was editor/manager of the *Columbia Chronicle*, and she grew up around the newspaper office. Following in his footsteps, she became a pioneer

newspaper woman and worked 32 years as a reporter for the *Chronicle-Dispatch*. She even penned her own obituary. Since it tells best the story of her life, what follows are excerpts from her piece:

"This is the last time I shall ever write for

Continued on Page 2

Women - Continued from Page 1

printed pages of life as we have known it, words of birth, marriage and death fraught with such deep meaning for so many that at last they have become my own, and I have rejoiced or sorrowed with everyone about whom I have written. Through the years I have had to write farewells to so many good friends of early days that it has seemed that life is but one separation after another, so my own leave's taking seems but a natural thing. It is strange how simple it all is, once one is outward bound.

"When I was seventeen, with all of life before me, I went to New York to study for the stage, and I followed my chosen profession for a brief time until death and misfortune in my family brought an end to those bright dreams of youth. [Miss Peabody's mother, also a writer, died in 1916. Her own fiance died while traveling to Dayton for their marriage. The smaller home on Peabody Hill was built as their marriage home.]

"My paper was my work and my place was my play, but it was all work of a kind, carried on in deepest sorrow, but with a gay tongue that I am sure burdened no one with my personal losses.

"Whatever can be said for or against me, there is one thing no one can gainsay—I have been very good to many poor homeless dogs. Not that that was a virtue. I just could not help it. They and I were more intelligible to one another than are many human relationships."

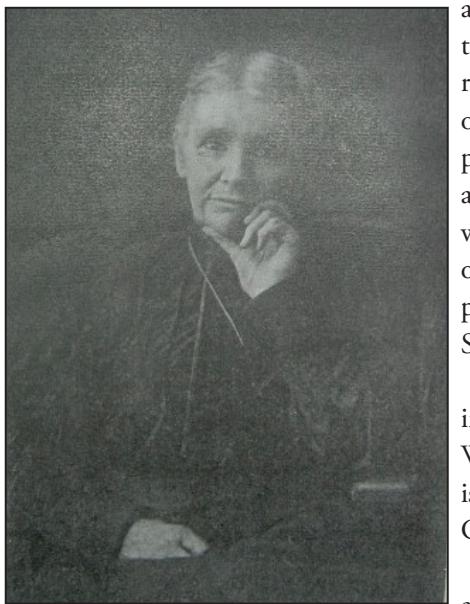
Miss Peabody, along with her dogs, often took her meals at Babe's, a local eatery. Interested in having an "easy" approach to her home on Peabody Hill, she dreamed of and worked toward having steps built up the steep incline between Hanan and South

Mule Skinner, Cook, Mail Carrier, Fruit Farmer – From the time 16-year-old Sylvania Cantonwine left Iowa in 1865 and headed across the plains with her family, she was not your average teenage girl. She drove mule teams the entire distance. From then on, she would live a life of adventure.

Her family settled in a deep hollow on the trail between Walla Walla and Coppei, where her parents, George C. and Mary Malinda (Lewis) Cantonwine, located and established a stage station and stopping place for travelers. Sylvania cooked for travelers who stopped by the small log hotel.

William Berry King, a hot-headed Irishman, was a stage driver on the Walla Walla to Lewiston route, traveling overland through Dixie, Waitsburg, and Dayton, fording creeks and rivers along the way. It was on this route that he became acquainted with Sylvania Cantonwine.

In 1867, they married and homesteaded at the Tucannon stage crossing, where they started one of the first farms on the river. When William was too ill to fulfill the mail-delivery contract, Sylvania traveled the primitive trails to deliver the mail herself. Their seven (Elizabeth) Sylvania Cantonwine King - Circa 1900



 **Blue Mountain Heritage Society**
<http://bluemountainheritage.org>

Dedicated to preserving the diverse history of southeastern Washington.

Our website is now LIVE. ✓ Check it out!

Search the treasure trove of Columbia County historical information on Families, Veterans, Teachers, and more!

6th streets. Those steps were built and are still in use today. The plaque installed at the top of the stairs reads:

IN MEMORY OF
SAMUEL AND SARAH STROM
ROBERT AND STELLA PEABODY
THE FIRST HERE TO BUILD HILLTOP HOMES
ERNESTINE PEABODY
"MY BIT OF IMMORTALITY"



Miss Peabody never married. When she died in 1948, her ashes were scattered on Syndicate Hill among the evergreen trees on the Peabody Estate.

children attended Dry Hollow School, which was a steep walk up Jackson Grade and beyond.

By 1885 the railroad had made the stage coach obsolete, and the horses were sold or given away. The King family acquired

a few, which gave them good, tough animals to use for driving or riding. They planted 15 acres into orchard with early apple trees, pears, and plums. Watermelons added variety to their crops and were hauled to market nesting on two feet of straw in a wagon pulled by four horses into Dayton, Starbuck, and Pomeroy.

Sylvania died on March 8, 1913 in Marengo, Columbia County, Washington, at the age of 64. She is buried in the Pomeroy City Cemetery.

Alice King Delany, who passed away in 1964, was the last survivor from this large family.

School Teacher, Wife, Mother, Author, Farming Partner – As a schoolteacher, Charlotte Hutchens had a nurturing influence on a child's education and development—resulting in a positive impact on strengthening our community.

At our society's Annual Membership Meeting and Soup Supper event in December of 2018, the evening's entertainment was a "live interview" with former students who, years ago, had attended Columbia School. A memorable part of the interview was talking about the teachers who had taught there. Charlotte Hutchens was one of several teachers fondly remembered.

Charlotte was born on June 19, 1911 in South Dakota to Theodore and Hanna Ostroot. Starting in 1931, she taught school in Montana. In 1943, with World War II on and the nation facing a teacher shortage, Charlotte made her way to Dayton, Washington, where she accepted a position as a first grade teacher. To teach in that state, she obtained a certificate under the War Emergency program set up to help stem the teacher shortage. Later, she received a regular teaching certificate number 54073C from the state.

Charlotte met local farmer Lloyd Hutchens and they married in 1947. Lloyd was a local boy, born in Columbia County on July 19, 1914. After being a stay-at-home wife and mother while her sons were young, Charlotte returned to teaching in 1963 at the Columbia School, where she taught for several more years.

In 1974, Charlotte and her husband were awarded the distinguished "Conservation Farmers of the Year" award. In addition to her help with the farm, Charlotte was active in the community. She belonged to several service organizations including The Elizabeth Forrest Day Club, Christian Women's Club,

Columbia Country Home Economic Club, and Friends of the Library. She was also a Library Board member.

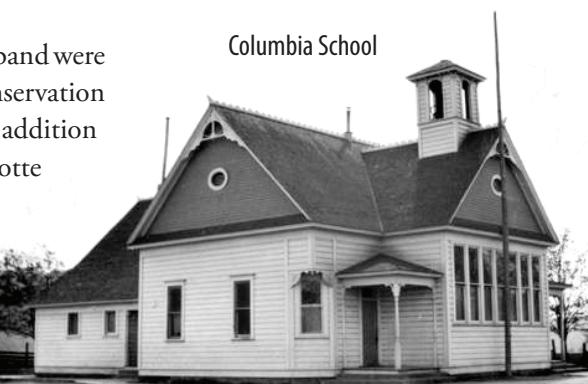
Committed to helping to preserve the heritage of our area, Charlotte helped author a documentation called *Our Heritage: History of Columbia School*.* Additionally, she compiled a book titled *History of Early Columbia County Schools*.* It's a delightful read and starts out with "Old Rules for Teachers in 1872." Some notable rules were:

- Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be discharged
- Men teachers may take one evening a week for courting purposes or two evenings per week if they go to church regularly
- Each teacher should lay aside from each pay a good portion of his earnings so he will not be a burden to society

The book goes on to give a brief history of the early schools in Columbia County, from the Columbia School District to the Whetstone School District. There are wonderful tidbits of information about the teachers, the students, and the school buildings.

Charlotte Hutchens is an example of the women who helped forge our community. As a teacher, farmer's wife, mother, and an author, she contributed to our society in many ways. Charlotte died at the age of 101 in Dayton on June 25, 2012. She exemplifies how women leave their mark in this world.

*Books available at BMHS Website



Josie, Girl Spy for the Union – In a Dayton newspaper's 1911 article announcing the marriage of Josephine L. Short to Edgar Fletcher Buttolph, an interesting item of note is mentioned. Although this new wife is proud of service in battle by both her first husband, Amos Clark Short, and her new husband, she is "still most proud of the fact that she served, by commission from Abraham Lincoln, as a spy on behalf of the Union."

At the age of 16, as she tells the story, Josephine (her maiden name may have been Wenn) and a friend left their homes in Boston after the Civil War broke out to serve as scouts and orderlies. They often carried dispatches to Lincoln and, she said, personally knew Generals Rosecrans, Bragg, Lee, Beauregard, Grant, and others. The girls cut their hair, bound their breasts, and took up habits of male soldiers such as chewing tobacco and swearing so as to blend in. Josie was sent to a relay house and acted as chore boy for the owner, peddling butter and eggs from camp to camp. She was often inside Confederate as well as Union lines, saw the sinking of the USS *Cumberland* and was taken prisoner after rowing out with a crowd of boys to retrieve the Union flag still waving from the ship's main mast. She spent four months in Libby prison and eventually escaped from Belle Isle. Captured later, she spent nine "horrible" months in Andersonville prison, eventually escaping with other "youngsters." Disguised as an old apple peddler, she managed to get away with a saber cut on her lip and a wounded knee. She carried the scars the rest of her life.

During her three years of service, Josie mentioned carrying dispatches in the heels of her shoes and becoming a skilled horsewoman able to ride any kind of horse, with or without saddle and bridle. She crossed the Potomac twice, once on horseback and once on foot. In Washington when Lincoln was assassinated, she was unable to attend the funeral as she had not yet been discharged. Her family knew nothing of the dangers she faced until she returned to Boston after the war ended.

Continued on Page 4