

# It's Finally Here! *Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse Museum Now has an Underground Irrigation System*

After years spent attempting to nurture a natural-looking landscaped around the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse, a conclusion was made: Without consistent, short cycles of watering, the rocky soil next to the river was not conducive to growing the same type of grasses that were present at the original Smith Hollow Schoolhouse location. Thankfully, a grant received from the Warren Community Foundation

provided funds towards the installation of an underground irrigation system. BMHS volunteer George Gagnon took the lead. His diligent planning and hours of hard labor were supported by the numerous volunteer hours BMHS Board members put in. It's just another great example of the dedication of our board.

Special thanks to George Gagnon, Roslyn Edwards, Dallas Dickinson, Mike McQuary, and John Hutchens for all the rock picking, trench digging, pipe fitting and support! Additional assistance came from Alan Huwe and Randy James. Job well done!



**Left:** John Hutchens glues pipe. **Center:** A "rock-post" supports a faucet. **Right:** Rocks present a challenge.

## 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!** This morning, while I oversee the 8<sup>th</sup> grade history exam, the other grades may read a book of your choice from the bookshelf, or take one piece of paper and quietly draw.

For those still compiling your list of countries and capitals, you may go to the globe at the back of the room and quietly work. However, please take turns. No more than two people at a time. After a few minutes adding information to your list, return to your desk and give someone else time at the globe.

When we break for lunch, we will all go outside to eat. A special treat is in store for dessert! As we near the end of the school year, we need to be honing our baseball skills at recess in order to be ready for the competition with the Marengo School.

We will now begin our work.

### An excerpt from a 1912, eight-grade history exam:

1. Who first discovered the following places: Florida, Pacific Ocean, Mississippi River and the St. Lawrence River?
2. By whom were the following settled: Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Florida?
3. Name two presidents who died in office, and name three who were assassinated.
4. Name the last battle of each of these wars and the commanders in each battle: Civil War; War of 1812; French and Indian War.
5. Who invented the following: magneto, telegraph, cotton gin, sewing machine, telephone, phonograph?

**ANSWERS:**

1. **Florida:** Ponce de Leon; **Pacific Ocean:** Vasco de Balboa; **Mississippi:** Hernando de Soto; **St. Lawrence River:** Jacques Cartier.
2. **Georgia:** General James Oglethorpe and settlers in 1732. **Maryland:** First settled by the Calvert family, who were Catholics looking for a place to worship freely. **Massachusetts:** The Mayflower Pilgrims in 1620 at what is now Plymouth; **Rhode Island:** Roger Williams in 1636, after being banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony; **Florida:** Immigrants from England, Spain and France beginning in the 16th century.
3. **Two Presidents who died in office:** William Henry Harrison and Zachary Taylor; three who were assassinated: Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley.
4. **Civil War:** Battle of Columbus, Georgia, April 16, 1865. Commanders were: Union General James Wilson, and Confederate Major General Howell Cobb; **War of 1812:** Generally recognized the Battle of New Orleans, 1815. Commanders were American Andrew Jackson, and English Edward Pakenham; **French and Indian War:** Battle of Signal Hill, Sept 15, 1762. British forces led by William Amherst, and French forces led by Guillaume de Bellecombe.
5. **Magneto:** Farady; **telegraph:** Samuel Morse; **cotton gin:** Eli Whitney; **sewing machine:** Elias Howe, (though disputed); **telephone:** Alexander Graham Bell; **phonograph:** Thomas Alva Edison.

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

Summer • 2019  
Newsletter

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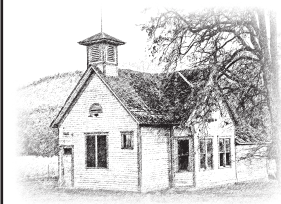
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### Visit Both BMHS Museums!

**Fridays 1 pm to 4 pm**  
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Smith Hollow  
Country Schoolhouse



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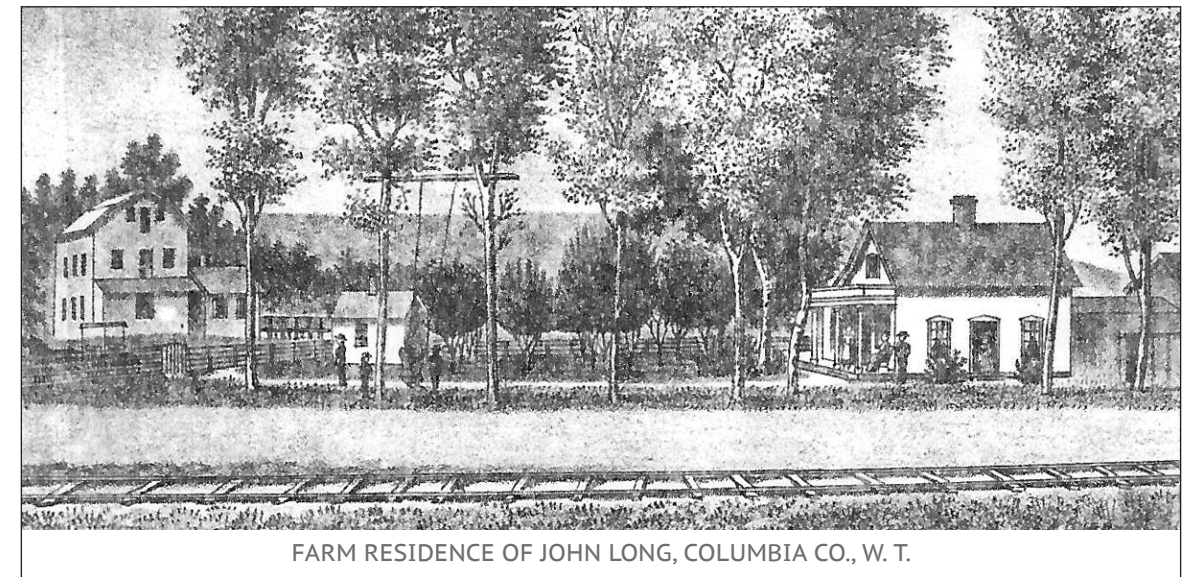
Blue Mountain  
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— Board Meets Monthly —  
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Everyone is  
Welcome!

# Local Places: Roads, Hollows, Gulches, and Grades



FARM RESIDENCE OF JOHN LONG, COLUMBIA CO., W. T.

by Dallas Dickinson, BMHS Treasurer; Paula Moisio, BMHS President; and Roslyn Edwards, BMHS Vice-President

*The Blue Mountain Heritage Society focuses on preserving the history of southeastern Washington. As we record information about the area's past, references to people and places are common. In fact, the names of the places quite often mirror the names of the people.*

*In this newsletter, we offer a glimpse of the history behind a few Columbia County place names. Given the county's many roads, hollows, gulches, and grades, there was no shortage of topics! We hope you enjoy learning about the "people-place" connection behind each location.*

**Palus (Palouse) Trails** – The earliest "roads" in what is now Columbia County were trails utilized by native tribes as they migrated seasonally from one area to another to hunt, fish, dig roots, and socialize. The first reference to the trails was by the Lewis & Clark Expedition on their homeward journey in 1806.

Before white settlers arrived, four trails converged beside the river where the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse is now situated, near where the Patit Creek flows into the Touchet River. This area was known later as the "crossing," where members

of the Palus, Cayuse, and Walla Walla tribes met often to trade goods, visit, and play games, including racing their fastest horses down what is now Dayton's Main Street. At times, members of the Nez Perce and Umatilla tribes joined them. It was later reported that there were 75-100 tepee frames standing in the area of the gatherings.

The "Kentuck" Trail led directly south from Spokane, joined the Nez Perce Trail, and traveled through Dayton to its end in Walla Walla. A major trail, later named Mullan Road, followed the Palouse River to the Snake and passed near modern-day Starbuck, Prescott, and Dayton. The Palus used these routes as they moved on a series of trails from the mountains to the valleys, into the Columbia Basin, and to their winter settlement near what is now Lyon's Ferry. Later, these trails were also used by trappers, packers, and settlers.

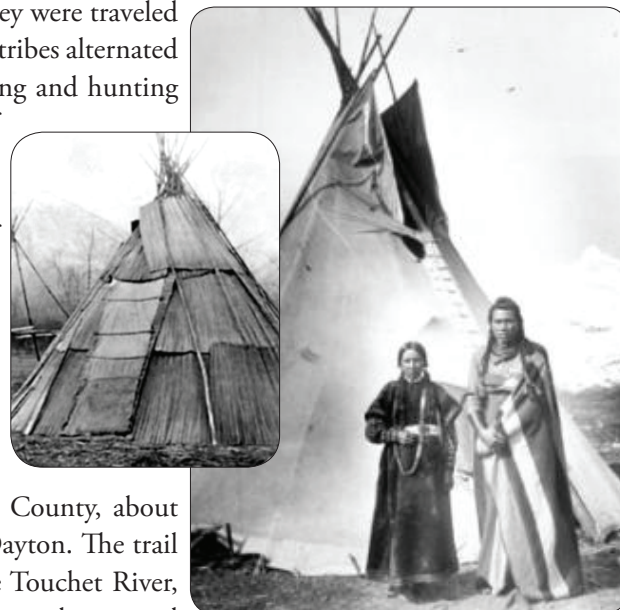
A battle occurred at the confluence of the Patit and the Touchet in 1858, when a group of 13 packers led by W.J. Lindsay and accompanied by Lieutenant Wickliff of Company F, Ninth Infantry, camped while carrying government supplies from Fort Walla Walla to Colonel Wright, who was then on Rock Creek, north of the Snake River. A group

Local Places - Continued from Page 1

of “hostiles” came down the hill from the north, circled, and fired upon the packers. Before the battle ended, several men on both sides were killed—along with 13 ponies.

Freelon “Stubbs” and Frederick D. Schnebley, brothers, located the first business in what is now Columbia County in 1859. Stubbs Schnebley built his cabin on the north bank of the Touchet, at the Crossing, and opened a trading post later known as the “little red store.”

Today’s modern highway from Pendleton through Walla Walla, Dayton, Pomeroy, to Lewiston follows closely the Nez Perce trail, the main thoroughfare of the tribes. These “highways” were not faint trails; they were traveled each year by hundreds of ponies as tribes alternated between winter and summer grazing and hunting grounds, good fishing, and relief from extremes of heat and cold. It is said that a section of one trail is still visible on the North Fork of the Touchet River about 6 miles from Dayton.



At the “crossing,” near the outskirts of what is now Dayton, native tribes put up pole frames. These would be covered with hides or tule mats to form teepees.

**Long’s Station** — Convenience of travel enabled yet another small settlement to spring up near the traditional Nez Perce Trail where it entered what is now Columbia County, about three miles southwest of present Dayton. The trail followed the southern bank of the Touchet River, crossed and followed Patit Creek northeast, and exited the county about seven miles west of where Pomeroy is today.

John Long, born in Ohio, crossed the plains and worked at butchering, farming, raising stock, and merchandising in various locations in Washington Territory. From 1863-1865, Long drove stock into this area. In 1865, he moved his wife and seven children here, settling at what became known as Milton Mills, Washington Territory.

The settlement consisted of a grist mill, blacksmith shop, livery stable and saloon. John’s brother Garrett Long joined him in building the grist mill, which was a three story frame mill 36 feet x 42 feet with a capacity of seventy barrels of flour daily. When the OR&N (Oregon Railroad & Navigation) Company put a side track there, it became Long’s Station. With the platting of the nearby town of Dayton, all businesses closed except the mill. It was destroyed by fire in 1909.

**Marengo and Marengo Grade** — The steep road leading in to the Tucannon Valley is known as Marengo Grade and ends in the old town of Marengo, which “lay astride” several great trails. Being near both the Nez Perce Trail and the Tucannon River, it later became a hub of travel and commerce for both Indian and White travelers and was the site of a stage stop on the Dayton-Lewiston route. A section of the old Nez Perce Trail is across from Marengo Cemetery.

As the Cayuse Wars broke out in 1855-1856, though, there were just three recorded settlers in what was to become Columbia County: Henry M. Chase, Louis Raboin, and P.M. Lafontain.

Raboin, who had been living east of the Cascades since 1851, was of Illinois-French stock, and had trapped and hunted with others in the Rockies, working for the American Fur Company. He settled near the Tucannon River and the Nez Perce Trail, but fled during the Cayuse Wars, as did Lafontain and Chase, who had staked

### One-Liners - *Who Were These Places Named After?*

- Bundy Hollow** - Alexander Bundy, a farmer who came to the area is 1865
- Cahill Mountain** - Local farmer, William R. Cahill
- Crall Hollow** - George W. Crall, as found in 1870 Census
- Eckler Mountain Road** - Illinois-born lumber manufacturer George Eckler, who settled in the area
- Fields Gulch** - Likely after local farmer, Benjamin Fields
- Johnson Hollow** - Named for Ambrose Johnson, a stockman who settled in the area in 1861
- King Grade** - William King, stagecoach driver who also delivered mail between Walla Walla & Lewiston
- Maloney Mountain Road** - Edward Maloney, who is listed in the 1870 census
- New York Gulch** - Likely after the New York Bar (on the Snake River) where E.H. Cummings was killed
- Payne Hollow** - Lewis Payne, another stockman who settled in the area in 1861
- Pettijohn Road** - Jonathon Pettijohn, who settled on the South Touchet
- Ring Canyon Road** - Gabriel E. Ring, who was killed at a dance held on Jasper Mountain
- Whiskey Hollow** - Named not after a person, but for the product that was illegally produced there

claims in what is now Dayton. Chase returned after the threat had passed, but all that he left behind had been burned. Lafontain moved on, settling elsewhere.

Louis Raboin later returned to his place on the Tucannon and lived quietly with his Flathead wife and six children. He reportedly owned 50 horses and a herd of cattle. He had four acres under cultivation and raised poultry. Raboin was reported to be lively, with an “active disposition,” leading his French friends to call him “Maringoin,” meaning “mosquito.” Early settlers came to know him as Marengo, thus the name of the settlement on the Tucannon and the grade leading to it from the hills to the south. Raboin was later killed near his cabin.

**Sources:**

<https://www.warpaths2peacepipes.com/indian-tribes/palouse-tribe.htm>  
<http://bluemountainheritage.org/columbia-county-family-histories/>  
*History of the Northern Blue Mountains*, Gerald J. Tucker, 1940  
*Columbia County Centennial Edition*, Dayton Chronicle, November 27, 1975  
*A Concise History of the Plateau Indians and Columbia County*, Kevin Carson, 2015  
*Old Walla Walla County Washington*, W.D. Lyman, 1918

For more history on area families, visit this BMHS web page.

## Word Search:

Roads, Hollows, Gulches, and Grades

*How do places get their names? Local landmarks are often named after early citizens who were prominent in the area or played a role in helping establish the community. At right are listed a few to search for.*

N	P	U	G	J	S	N	C	M	H	F	T	U	N
H	A	A	M	I	U	O	S	D	L	E	I	F	O
A	Y	A	W	M	R	Y	R	N	E	G	R	H	Y
T	N	L	O	C	E	N	H	G	R	O	S	E	N
L	E	T	N	R	H	A	T	B	H	A	A	E	A
E	E	O	C	E	B	C	I	T	B	U	P	N	C
Y	B	M	E	E	A	B	M	O	H	L	M	O	R
N	H	U	L	K	C	U	S	H	K	E	G	T	A
C	O	M	N	O	E	R	N	R	I	N	L	S	G
T	G	W	K	D	C	G	A	R	Y	N	S	T	U
H	E	A	I	K	Y	L	N	L	O	U	M	E	O
A	Y	O	N	L	O	E	A	A	L	H	H	H	C
A	E	H	G	R	Y	R	L	M	R	C	T	W	G
C	L	M	N	S	E	W	E	H	E	R	T	Y	L

- ROSE
- HOG EYE
- SMITH
- MALCOLM
- COUGAR CANYON
- HATLEY
- SORGHUM
- WHETSTONE
- GRUB CANYON
- FIELDS
- BUNDY
- PAYNE
- KING
- THORN
- ALTO
- CRALL
- RANGE
- JIM CREEK

**Baileysburg** — Jeremy and Luvina Bailey’s homestead became the center of the unincorporated community of Baileysburg. The community was established in 1881 when the Touchet Church was formed.

In 1878, Jeremy Bailey built his planing mill and door factory on the south bank of the North Touchet near his home. Later, a second mill was built by Bailey’s future son-in-law, Robert Donley. The factories made a variety of items including chairs, tables and cabinets. The furniture was mostly made of local fir, pine and cottonwood although occasionally imported hardwoods were used.

By 1884, the Baileysburg community had over 60 citizens. Gardens and orchards were planted near the homes and thrived along the North Touchet.

**Whetstone** — One of the primary stops for stagecoaches and freight wagons was the Whetstone Ranch and store. The coaches traveled out of the Tucannon over the Hartsock Grade and into the area settled by Thomas Whetstone. Mr. Whetstone settled in the hollow that bears his name in 1860. Records of the Whetstone Ranch start in 1869 and contain entries from the store, stagecoach stop, hotel and farm. One entry showed a traveler paid \$3 for five meals and two beds. Might have been an original bed and breakfast!

**New York Bar** — The New York Bar was located in the northeast corner of Columbia County on the Snake River above Texas Ferry. It was a significant location, since grains from Columbia County, the Pataha, and Pomeroy were shipped from the warehouse on the river prior to the time railroads came into the area. There is a gruesome story about a murder at the New York Bar in 1882. E.H. Cummins was an agent for the OR&N (Oregon Railroad & Navigation) Company and was in charge of the warehouse.

On July 26, 1882, Mr. Cummins was found dead in his bed. He had on a shirt, his drawers, and a heavy quilt was over his body. But his body was riddled with gunshots. There were bullets found in his hand, hip, shoulder, back, and skull. It was reported there were at least 13 shots fired. He also had ax and knife wounds. It was not known why the horrific murder occurred, but there was about \$1,000 missing from the warehouse, which was likely the motive.

**Hatley Gulch** — John Hatley, along with his wife and eight children, traveled to the Touchet Valley in 1870. The family homesteaded land in the mountains near what is now the North Touchet Road. Hatley was the first pioneer to look up to the trees, rather than down at the soil.

In 1872, John and his sons started their first sawmill on the mountain that became Hatley Mountain, later renamed Cahill Mountain after another pioneer family. This sawmill came from the East Coast and was shipped around the southern tip of South America. The entire family worked at the mill, including his wife and daughters.

A donkey engine, looking somewhat like the Tin Man in “The Wizard of Oz,” cut the trees and left stumps about four feet high. Ox-drawn carts then hauled the logs to the mill. The Hatleys sawed lumber for the Baileysburg Furniture Factory and for several buildings in Dayton, including the Christian Church (moved from Baileysburg to Dayton around 1886) and the old Methodist Church. As the heyday of the private family sawmill business faded, the Hatley Mill eventually shut down.

Saint Hatley, a relative of John’s, was an accomplished fiddle player and was sought after to play at dances and other gatherings. A sawmill accident left him with only one hand, but he figured out how to continue to play the fiddle!

Mae Jennings, John’s granddaughter, quotes a memory from her mother, Lavina: “I can remember scrambling up to the top of the sawdust piles and sliding down. We didn’t get dirty and Mom didn’t scold.”

*A special thanks and grateful acknowledgement goes to Liz Carson for her invaluable assistance in providing information on our area’s history for this newsletter.*