

Veterans Buried in Columbia County

The Veterans Memorial Wall in Dayton lists the names of veterans buried in Columbia County. The names were painstakingly compiled and include Veterans who fought in the Mexican War, the Indian Wars, the Civil War, The Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Desert Storm, and the Iraq Conflict. The oldest veteran buried in the Dayton Cemetery is Charles Pringle. Private Pringle is a veteran of the War of 1812 who served in the Carteret Company Regiment from North Carolina from 1812 to 1815. Pringle was born in 1789 in Connecticut and died in 1879 in Dayton.

The Memorial Wall also lists five Veterans from the 1846 Mexican War, plus many from the Indian Wars and the Civil War.

Gilderoy Holderman, a featured soldier in the Columbia County Veterans Display located in the Palus Museum, served as

a Corporal for the 6th Kansas Cavalry. He died in 1883 at the age of 50 and is buried at the Bundy Hollow Cemetery. Holderman entered the Civil War as a private in 1861 and exited as a Corporal in 1865.

Frank E. Bauer was the first soldier from Columbia County to die in WWI. He was wounded in the Battle of Argonne in France on 10/2/1919 and died 9 days later. Frank was returned home on May 18, 1922 and buried in the Dayton Cemetery, lot 37 Section 2.

Although the Veterans whose names are on the wall have passed on, their service to the United States—and their ties to our community—are not forgotten. When you pass the Veterans Memorial Wall, take a moment to scan the names and honor those men and women from our community who have served this nation.

References: *Columbia County Burial Records through 1978*; *Veterans Buried in Columbia County*, compiled by Liz Carson



The Veterans Memorial Wall on Dayton's Main Street pays tribute to our local area Veterans.

A new year is on the horizon, and 2020 BMHS membership dues are now due!

For your convenience, a renewal form has been included in this newsletter mailing. The form includes a **FINAL** call to take part in the 2019 Dayton High School Class Challenge.

Not a DHS Grad? You can still take part. Honor a current teacher, family member, friend, or community member. Here are the class years represented so far: 1935, 1939, 1941, 1948, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1982, 1991, and 2000. Is your class listed?

The 2019 DHS Class Challenge Report Card will be published by spring of 2020.

Smith Hollow Schoolmarm

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! To sharpen your minds, today I will give you some brain teasers. You can then try them on your families over the upcoming holidays.

Starting off, does anyone know what the word "conundrum" means? According to Webster's dictionary, a conundrum can be a puzzle or a problem. It can also be a riddle, the answer to which involves a pun or play on words.

Conundrums:

1. Why is Ireland likely to become very rich?
2. To what question can you answer nothing but "yes"?
3. Why is a beehive like a spectator?
4. Why are fixed stars like pen, ink and paper?
5. What word asks the question: "Am I strong?"
6. Why is a fretful man like a loaf of bread that has been baked too long?
7. Why is heedlessness like a ragged coat?
8. Why is a room full of married people empty?
9. What step must I take to remove the letter A from the alphabet?
10. Why is D like a sailor?

Next, we will work on a few "enigmas." Webster tells us that an enigma, which comes originally from the Greek word *ainigma* meaning riddle, can refer to a puzzling or obscure piece of writing that is difficult to interpret or understand. Let's see if you can figure these word puzzles out.

Enigmatical Birds:

- A. The bird beloved by Eve
- B. A famous English architect
- C. What wicked men are doing
- D. What we all do at dinner
- E. A plaything
- F. Happy and peaceful time in the past
- G. A sound indicative of triumph
- H. A warm country
- I. An instrument to raise weights and heavy objects
- J. A bird disliked by mice

These puzzles and answers were taken from the 17th edition (1856) of The Girl's Own Book, by L. Maria Child, which was first published in 1834.

ANSWERS TO CONUNDRUMS: 1. Because its capital is always Dublin (Doubling). 2. What do the letters 'E' and 'S' spell? 3. It is a beholder. (Beh) 4. They are stationary. 5. Amiable. (Am I able.) 6. He is crusty. 7. It is a bad habit. 8. Because there is not a single person in it. 9. Behaved it. (B) head it. (H) head it. (H) follows sea. (C) **ANSWERS TO ENIGMAS:** A. Bird of Paradise. B. Wren C. Robin - (Robbing). D. Swallow E. Kite. F. Halcyon. G. Crow. H. Turkey. I. Crane. J. Catbird

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



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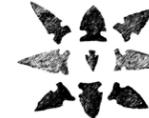
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The Palus
Museum



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:
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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!*

Cemeteries: Resting Places of History



The Goodwin Sisters' Grave Marker,
Smith Hollow Cemetery

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

To get a true feel for our area's history, take a walk through a few of the local cemeteries. In addition to the city cemetery on the edge of Dayton, Columbia County has scattered about it several additional smaller cemeteries: Huntsville, Covello, Pioneer, Turner, Marengo, Highland, Starbuck, Bundy Hollow, and Smith Hollow. While many of these small, rural cemeteries are fading with the seasons, the profound stories of our predecessors are still there to be viewed. The grave markers speak of hardship and loss, of family, everlasting faith, and love. Like us, these folks called Columbia County home. Moreover, they remind us that our own lives are each a history in the making.

Smith Hollow Cemetery – In the fall of 2010, the Smith Hollow Schoolhouse—which had stood in Smith Hollow for 110 years—was moved eight miles to the school's present location in Dayton.

Remaining behind near the base of a wind-blown hill, across the road from where the school had been, is a small cemetery. Only a few gravestones are standing or visible. A dead tree leans against the hill, as if keeping watch over a nearby monument for two sisters, Emlie Goodwin (1875) and Dora Goodwin (1878). Both had died in infancy.

Graves from the Crawford, Floyd, Knight, Abraham, and Goodwin families were all identified with wooden markers. Over the years, these were destroyed by fire. Yet cemetery records remain to reveal some of the tragedies families endured. John and Milda Knight Crawford, for instance, list a stillborn son in 1891. The Floyd family lost their son, Leslie, in 1902.

John R. Crawford came to this area in 1876. He filed homestead claim #3674 in the Whetstone area in 1882. Crawford owned 160 acres and married Milda Knight, who lived with her family in the Smith Hollow area. She was 17 when they wed, and nine of their ten children apparently lived past infancy. Milda and John are both buried in Smith Hollow Cemetery.

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The most recent gravestone is that of World War II veteran Robert James Seney, an area farmer who owned the land on which the cemetery stands. He died in 2011 at the age of 91. Other Seney family members plan to be buried in this historic location.

Dayton City Cemetery — John Harden Mustard, born in 1835 in Virginia, left home at the age of 10 after his mother had remarried. He worked on a ferryboat in Saint Louis, Missouri, until he was 16. At 19, he headed to California in search of gold. By the late 1850s, he moved to Oregon, where he met Sarah Davis, whose father, Harmon W. Davis, had been a wagon master on the Oregon Trail. Sarah and John were married in Springfield, Oregon, in 1860 and soon had three children.

During 1866, they settled in Columbia County (Washington Territory), where four more of their children were born. Involved in farming, sheep ranching and a woolen mill venture, the family homesteaded 250 acres.

Mustard served as a city councilman, was on the board of health during the 1881 smallpox outbreak, and was treasurer of the local Masonic Lodge. In 1880, he was elected sheriff of Columbia County, which at that time included what are now Asotin and Garfield counties.

In the late 1800s, John Mustard deeded property to the City of Dayton for a cemetery. Charles Pringle, who was buried there in 1879, became an early resident. Prior



John Harden Mustard - Photographed in 1880

to creation of Dayton's cemetery, burials commonly took place at the Newland/Pioneer Cemetery or other small regional burial grounds. John Mustard died in 1914. He is buried, along with many of his relatives, in the family plot located at the center of the cemetery.

Many early gravestones in the Dayton City Cemetery incorporate depictions of tree stumps, broken limbs, and sections of sawed trunks. These symbolize lives cut short and were provided by Woodmen of the World, a "secret and benevolent society" formed in Omaha in 1890 by Joseph Cullen Root. The goal of this non-profit organization was to "clear away problems of financial security" for its members who cleared the land to "provide for families settling the frontier." The death benefit included a cash payment for family members in addition to a grave monument. By the 1920s, the large and often ornate monuments were no longer provided by Woodmen due to cemetery restrictions. Woodmen of the World still exists as an Omaha insurance company.

Dayton's cemetery contains hundreds of unique and beautiful monuments as well as mature trees and expanses of green grass. Fencing was provided through an endowment established by Margaret A. Ganguet Charitable Trust. A small fee added to plot costs helps with continuing upkeep of the grounds.

Sources: Van Seney; Liz Carson's genealogical binders and *Columbia County Schools* by Charlotte Hutchens, bluemountainheritage.org; *Find A Grave*, Columbia County Rural Library District research; Washington Rural Heritage site, historylink.org; City of Dayton; *Bygone Walla Walla*.



Example of a headstone by Woodmen of the World

Engraved Eulogies from Huntsville's Past

"Farewell Dear Mother, Thou are waiting to welcome us home" — age 32

"The angels kissed her and she fell asleep" — age 47

"Not lost but gone before" — age 71

"She lived and died in hope of eternal happiness" — age 33

Huntsville Cemetery — Located two miles east of Waitsburg, the Huntsville community was first settled in the 1860s by United Brethren believers. The small town quickly expanded with a college level three-story seminary, a dry goods store, a train depot and several churches. When it was first settled, Huntsville residents had to pledge not to drink, dance, or smoke. Eventually, the seminary became a public graded school and saloons were built on Main Street. There was also a gas pump and post office to serve the community. The streets, when platted, were named after American presidents: Taylor, Washington, Jackson, Jefferson. In recent years, Washington became Sorghum Hollow.

The Huntsville cemetery is perched on a hill off Sorghum Hollow. It is surrounded by a wrought iron fence and a wheat field. Only 26 graves reside in this space, with 17 year old Alvah Hammer being the first one buried there in 1881.

Most family names on the headstones are not readily recognized today. There were many Hammers. Del Groom remembers that his grandmother bought the Hammers' house near where the Lannings now live. He also affirmed that no Grooms are buried up there, despite the large farming family. One of the Hammer ancestors decided to take care of the cemetery and moved all of the headstones to one corner, in rows, so he could better care for it.

B.J. Hunt was the original owner of the town site. There are several headstones and markers of Hunt family members, as well as some other markers without names. Several military headstones from the 1880s are also present.

In 1932, Dan Bickelhaupt's father bought the land surrounding the cemetery. While walking around the cemetery he noticed a headstone outside the fence, on the back side of the hill with the name *BT Daniels* stamped on it. Rumor was that the man had died of diphtheria and people were afraid of having him buried inside the cemetery.

A once thriving town, with the sounds of locomotives pulling into the station, the clip clop of horse and wagon making its way down a dusty presidential street lined with abundant orchards and a creamery, is now just a scattered collection of suburban-style homes. Three original Huntsville houses remain. The school, taverns, gas stations and stores are all gone. Yet, the sentinels on the hill keep watch. The last burial to take place there was Clair Smith's, in 1981. It was 100 years after Alvah Hammer's burial, which was the first.

A Tribute to the Mothers of the Children

by Roz Edwards

Most of my life, I have wandered in cemeteries. However, after researching my portion of the cemetery articles, I am once again shaken to my core. There were so very many infant and children deaths! Sometimes five or six to a family. Yes, there were those who survived. But as a mother, I know each child is unique and special. Fortunately, in our small community, childhood deaths are now rare. And when a child dies, we all feel the pain. How could these pioneer parents, especially the mothers go on? Mrs. Gilbreath lost her two-year-old daughter two weeks after giving birth to her son—she then lost *him* a year and a half later. Was it their beliefs, their strong faith that kept them from totally buckling? Or was it the community support of other families who also had lost a child? I feel our predecessors were often more durable than we are today.

Cemeteries are not dead. They are very much alive with the stories of our pioneers, if we would just look a little deeper; contemplate their lives and their service.

Newland/Pioneer Cemetery — In 1863, homesteader J.H. Newland donated five acres of land for a cemetery, just a scant mile from the outskirts of Dayton. Although there were small cemeteries scattered about Columbia County, this was to be Dayton's first cemetery. Two year old Sarah Gilbreath, first pioneer child born in Columbia County was reinterred from Waiilatpu in 1864 and was buried along with her brother Thomas in this new cemetery. Founder of Dayton, Jesse Day and his family are all buried here. Although the actual locations of the family graves are unknown at this time, it is fairly certain that Jesse is buried near the Day monument.

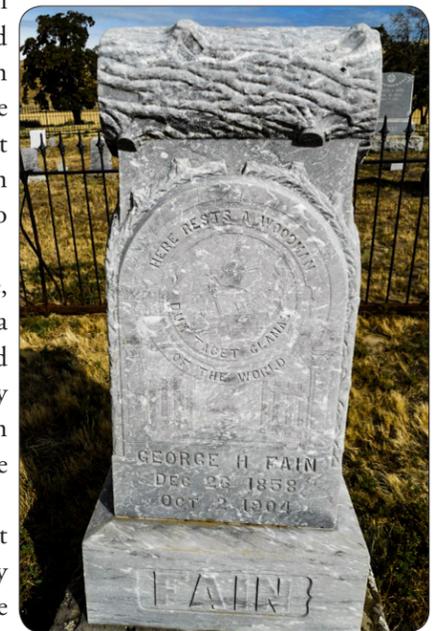
Originally known as the Newland Cemetery, it changed hands regarding care and upkeep over the years. Early in the 20th century, Homer Richardson bought the land surrounding the cemetery and began to farm it. All was well until the Pioneer Association began to place posts around the cemetery site, with plans to put up a fence. In anger, Richardson pulled up all of the posts. The Association members filed criminal charges against him. The case went to court. Although Richardson lost, he refused to pay the fine. He also refused to stop farming the area.

Consequently, Sheriff Davis drove to the site, unhitched Richardson's horses, and took them to a livery stable in town. Livery costs on the impounded horses accumulated daily. Richardson did not pay up until the last day of the grace period. He then regained his horses and allowed the fence to be placed.

The most mysterious and well-kept grave is that of an unknown Canadian. Each Decoration Day (Memorial Day) flowers are found placed on the grave. Occasionally a car is seen at night driving up to the cemetery, but the identity of the flower giver is unknown. Perhaps the grave is that of Henry Cross, a 26 year old English Mormon Missionary who died at the Gilbreath house after being bitten by either a rattlesnake or black widow spider in 1908.

Of note is the fact that in the Pioneer Cemetery, there are no grave markers with dates for 1881-1882. That was the period of time when the smallpox epidemic struck. As a result, entire families were often bundled in blankets and buried together without markers, sometimes even outside the cemetery's fenced grounds.

Dayton's entire Boldman family is buried in this cemetery, including Gladys who died in 1997. Funds donated by the Boldman sisters provide for the cemetery's perpetual care.



This Woodmen of the World headstone is located in the Newland/Pioneer Cemetery.

Once again, grateful acknowledgement goes to Liz Carson, Dayton's 2019 Citizen of the Year, for her assistance in providing information on our area's history for this newsletter.

— Calendar Events —

2019 BMHS Annual Meeting — Thursday, December 12, 2019 • 5:30 pm • Join us for our traditional soup supper and short meeting. Then enjoy learning a bit of local history, first hand, as a group of long-time residents reminisce about our area's past.

2020 Ground Hog Dinner — Saturday, February 1, 2020 • 5:30 - 8:00 pm
Youth Building • County Fairgrounds • Dayton
\$12.50 per person
\$35.00 per family

