

An Update: COVID-19 and The Blue Mountain Heritage Society

It's been a year since we began dealing with the impact of Covid-19 on Blue Mountain Heritage Society operations. While our mission of preserving the history of Southeastern Washington remains intact, the past twelve months have been a challenging time for our board, our museums, our volunteers, and our community.

For most of 2020, museums throughout the state were closed as part of the Governor's efforts to control the pandemic's spread. When state restrictions eased a bit, we hosted a few by-appointment-only tours at the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse, the Palus Museum (featuring the Columbia County Veterans display), and the Dodge Quarantine Cabin.

Pandemic regulations also changed how our

board conducted business. In-person gatherings were replaced with virtual meetings. Scheduled fundraisers were put on hold, moved back, and eventually canceled. The BMHS annual meeting and the election of officers were reduced to a lackluster, via-the-internet ZOOM event. Greatly missed were the wonderful soups, comradery, and entertainment we've grown accustomed to.

Despite the pandemic challenges we've faced, the generosity of our loyal supporters has enabled us to meet the costs of maintaining our museums. Also, we have been able to meet our annual obligations to increase our Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse Endowment fund.

Looking ahead, we are in the planning stages for more fully utilizing the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse property. Zoning regulations near

the river limit what can be built. However, behind the school an outdoor display honoring the evolution of farming in Columbia County is being considered. To showcase schoolhouse bells, plans are to make a small area near the south side of the school into a "bell garden."

Covid-19 may have slowed us down, but our commitment remains focused on the future!

BREAKING NEWS:

Beginning in April, our museums will now be open, but with shortened hours—due to limited availability of docents. (New volunteers are most welcome!)

Smith Hollow County Schoolhouse & Dodge Quarantine Cabin:

Open: Saturdays 12:00-2:00 PM

Palus Museum (veterans display/other exhibits):

Open: Saturdays 2:00-4:00 PM

Smith Hollow Schoolmarm — March 1927

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

Good morning students. Now that we have said the Pledge of Allegiance and sung our morning song, "America the Beautiful," I have a surprise! Please turn in your homework, then clear your desks, and be ready to listen.

This afternoon we are going on a Field Trip! Leading our group will be Paul and Roy Eslick. They are not only the youngest students and twins, but they were also born on the 4th of July! Yes, Darlene. That's our country's "birthday," too. That's why I cannot think of a more patriotic job for these two boys!

Notice the rolled-up sheets of butcher paper and box of wax crayons on the corner shelf? They are for making stone rubbings.

You see at 1 o'clock, Roy's and Paul's father, Mr. Eslick, will arrive in his hay truck to take us to the Starbuck Cemetery! Oh, my. From all those cheers, you certainly are up for the task.

In our history lessons, we have been studying how the United States was settled.

Many folks joined wagon trains and headed west. So, the headstones you will be looking for in the Starbuck cemetery today are ones you believe are of those early settlers—those who homesteaded our area. Then, using a wax crayon on your butcher paper, you'll make stone rubbings of their grave markers.

If you pay attention to dates and names as well as any epitaph on the headstones, I think you will learn a great deal.

What's an epitaph? Well, yes. That's correct, Bruce. The letters *R.I.P.* or "*Rest In Peace*" would be an example. An epitaph is an inscription on a grave marker or headstone in memory of the person buried there.

Oh, and the first student to find the Greek headstone with Greek letters will get to sit up front with Mr. Eslick on the way home. By the time we return to our school, each of you will have a stone rubbing to accompany tomorrow's essay. You will be writing about

what you saw and learned on today's field trip. And younger students, you will write a sentence or two on your butcher paper below your stone rubbing.

Since this is a rather brisk, windy day, I promise hot cocoa and biscuits upon our return back here to the school.



Starbuck Cemetery
Headstone for John Sveland, 1882-1915.
"I.X.B.I. A native of Greece"
Shown here is the Greek inscription on back.

PO Box 163
Dayton, WA 99328

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

Spring • 2021
Newsletter

2021 BMHS Officers

President:
Paula Moio

Vice-President:
Roslyn Edwards

Secretary:
Mary Harri

Treasurer:
Dallas Dickinson

Directors:
Barbara Carlton
Duane Dunlap
Rose Engelbrite
John Hutchens
Karen Thronson

Newsletter Team - Diane Longanecker,
Paula Moio, Dallas Dickinson,
and Roslyn Edwards

The Palus
Museum
Saturdays 2 pm to 4 pm



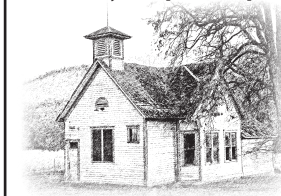
426 East Main Street
Dayton, Washington

Visit Both BMHS Museums!

April – November

Or Year Round By Appointment Email:
bluemountainheritage@gmail.com

Smith Hollow
Country Schoolhouse
Saturdays 12 pm to 2 pm



113 North Front Street
Dayton, Washington

Blue Mountain
Heritage Society

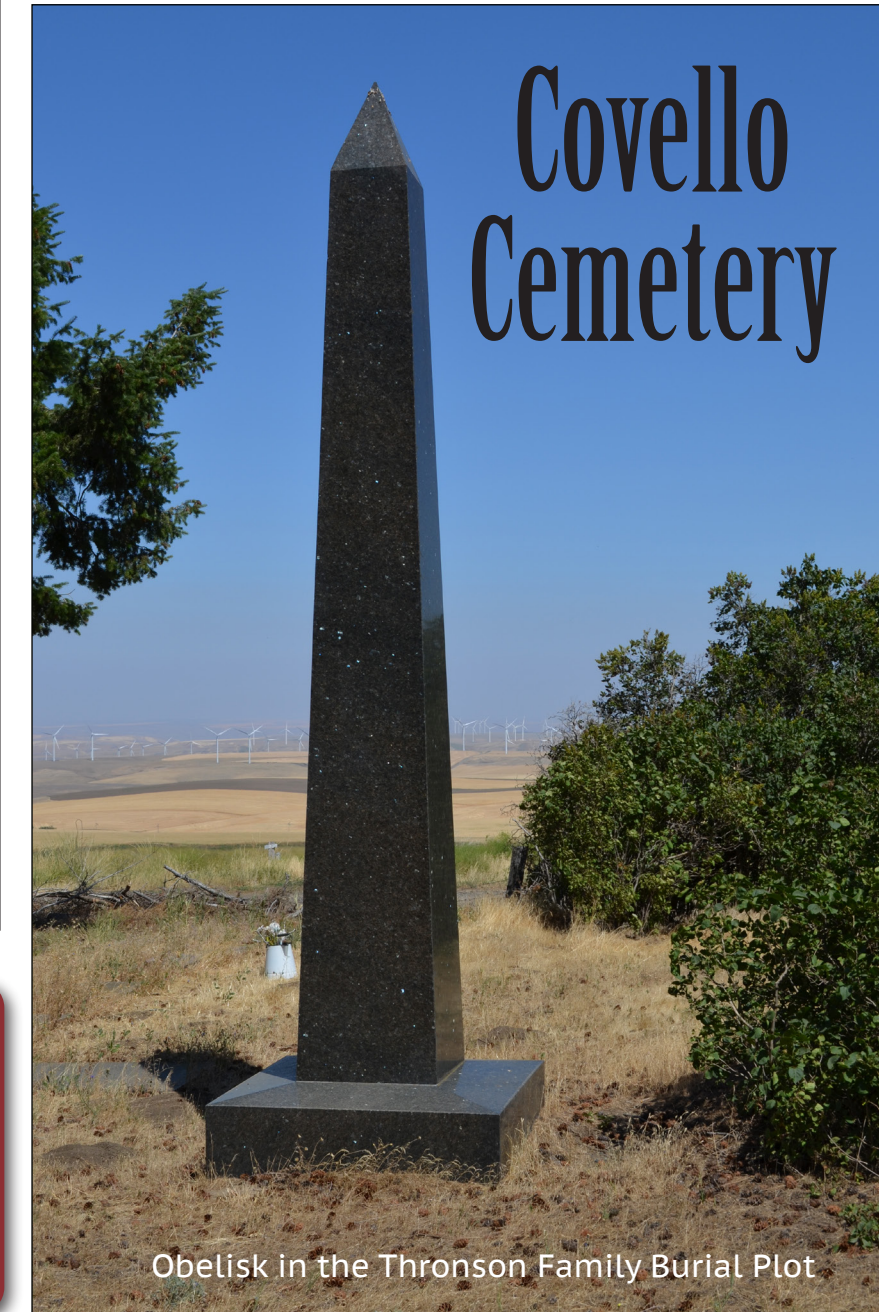
— Board Meets Monthly —
2nd Thursday – 9:00 am

Delany Building
111 South Third Street
Dayton, Washington

Everyone is
Welcome!

About 14 miles northeast of Dayton—and bordered on two sides by the near 90-degree bend in Thronson Road—is Covello Cemetery. It is situated a mile northeast of what used to be the town of Covello. A once thriving community, all that remains of Covello today are the tombstones and grave markers of previous inhabitants.

In 1882, Mr. Wulzen and Mr. Schroder, two prosperous businessmen from San Francisco came north and opened a store in what was originally known as Pioneer. When a post office opened there in 1883, the name changed to Covello—reportedly after a town in the Mother Lode District of California.



Obelisk in the Thronson Family Burial Plot

The townsite of Covello was surveyed in 1884. John M. Putman platted the nine-block area where between 35 to 40 town lots soon sold. Many familiar names from today were represented on the list of purchasers, including Dickinson, Turner, Ward, Ankeny, Davis, and Grupe.

Covello steadily grew. By 1891, in addition to the store, there were two blacksmith shops, a shoe shop, a steam planer and chop mill, a school, several residences plus prospects for a church. The continual hope was that a railroad would connect Covello with Dayton. A railway bed was graded, yet the iron rails were never laid. Instead, the rail line ended miles away at Turner.

By 1900 the population of Covello was over 100. But

President's Message

Covid-19: History in the Making

During the past twelve months, it's been a rare conversation that does not revolve around Covid-19. When the pandemic started out last winter, we were unaware of how widespread the ramifications to our lives, our economy, and our way of living would be. Every person in Columbia County, in the United States, and throughout the world has now felt its impact.

As of mid-February 2021, Columbia County Public Health reports four active cases, 102 recovered cases, and four deaths. The Washington State Covid-19 website lists 333,794 total cases and 4,822 deaths for our state. In the United States, the virus has infected some 28 million individuals and caused nearly 500,000 deaths. Worldwide Covid-19 cases number at least 112 million and nearly 2.5 million deaths.

By comparison, the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 infected about 500 million people. Deaths worldwide are estimated to be at least 50 million, with some 675,000 of those occurring in the United States. The U.S. Census Bureau's 1918 Mortality Statistics table shows "4,879 flu fatalities in Washington in calendar year 1918."

Currently, much of the Covid-19's impact remains to be seen, even within our local community. How long will masks be worn? How will the remaining businesses survive the economic consequences? What will change with people working from home? How will students make up for their lost time in school? How will social distancing affect our relationships in the future? How many lives will have been lost before the final count tally?

Fortunately, as vaccinations increase, new coronavirus cases are on the decline. Let's hope we are seeing a light at the end of this long tunnel.

I think we are all anticipating looking back at Covid-19 from a historical perspective—instead of having it be part of our daily lives.

Paula Moiso, President

bluemountainheritage@gmail.com

Blue Mountain Heritage Society

<https://bluemountainheritage.org>

Covello - Continued from Page 1

without a railroad, the number of residents dwindled. In 1918, the post office closed. Today, the cemetery on the hill, with its tombstones and grave markers of previous inhabitants, is all that remains of the once-active community.

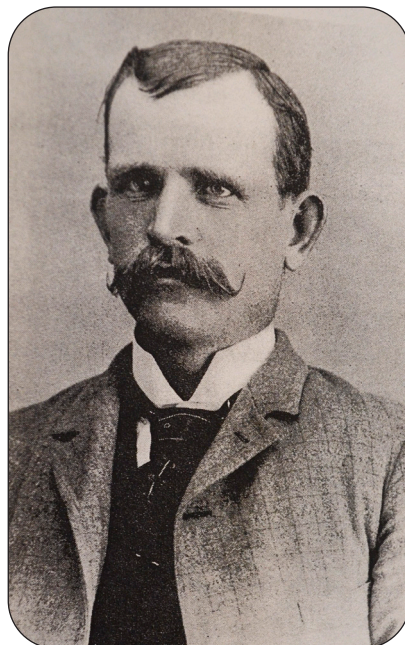
In Ward Rinehart's book *Covello: A Pioneer Remembers*, the author shares the view he took in from the cemetery.

The wild roses I thought so beautiful the day I followed my grandfather's hearse up the hill fifty years ago were still there today. I had forgotten that from the hallowed retirement home one could look north a hundred miles to Steptoe Butte and west the same distance to the Columbia River Bluffs at the south of the Yakima. And across the rear of the backyard was the hedge of the beautiful Blue Mountains.

Ward Rinehart's writings also paid homage to the neighborhood of families clustered there in the Covello Cemetery. He noted that several prominent family names were well represented, including Thronson, English, Prater, Cyrus, Rockhill, McGee, and Boldman.

The cemetery's most easily seen monument is a stone column standing 14-feet tall. With its four tapered sides and pyramidal top, the black granite obelisk glistens in the sunlight, like a proud beacon in honor of the Thronson family. The story behind the obelisk's existence speaks to the tenacity and persistence that made Willis Thronson, an early settler to the area, such a success.

Born in Helleland, Norway, on April 4, 1825, Willis Thronson (Villas Trondsen) and his brother came to the United States in the 1840s. Their first stop was New York. The 1850s found Willis married and in Minnesota, where his three oldest children were born, Julia (1855), Caroline (1856, apparently dying as a child), and Thron (1858). But by the



Charles John Thronson - Youngest of Willis and Anna Thronson's children. Born April 12, 1865 in California. Died at age 72 on December 14, 1937 in Dayton, Washington. Buried in the Thronson family plot at Covello Cemetery.

Looking back some 75 years, here is what a then young, friend-of-the-family who knew him wrote: "A heart of gold" the folks used to say. All his life he worked on projects to benefit the Covello community, the cemetery, the church, the railroad extension, and grain storage facilities.

1860s, gold beckoned the brothers west to California, where Willis' two youngest sons Joel Albert (1864) and Charles John (1865) were born.

In 1871, Thronson brought his wife and four children north via riverboat, arriving at Wallula. In search of available land to homestead, the family traveled up the Touchet Valley to Dayton, settling near Covello on land close to the Fort Walla Walla to Lewiston stage line. They named their place, "Keystone Farm."

Like many pioneers, Willis started with very little. With no time to build a cabin before winter set in, he dug a hole in a dirt bank, fashioned a roof over it, and installed a stove. While the rest of the family spent the winter in the hovel, Willis, in search of work at the mines, left for Kellogg, Idaho. He walked the entire way.

As he aquired some money, Willis



Huntsville Cemetery

Moroni became Mack, a strapping six-foot-two-inch vaudeville comedian and orator, who starred in many silent films. While working for Keystone Studios, he appeared in the *Keystone Cops* series of films. At one point, Mack was more popular than his friend, Charlie Chaplin.

By 1921, however, Mack's career began to slide. Chaplin stepped in and saved him. Then in 1925, they both starred in Chaplin's masterpiece, *The Gold Rush*. In this film, Mack filled a major supporting role as the character of Big Jim McKay.

In 1932 Mack Swain received an academy award nomination for *Stout Hearts and Willing Hands*, a 20-minute film that was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Short Subject (Comedy). For some unknown reason, the film was disqualified before the awards took place.

His final film role was an uncredited appearance as a



Mack Swain

man on a rowing machine in the 1935 film, *Bad Boy*. He then retired from movies. For his contributions to more than 40 pictures in the film industry, Mack Swain received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Sometime shortly after 1899, Mack had married Cora Claire King, a

western United States. On August 25, 1935, while the couple was in Tacoma, Washington, Mack was felled by a heart attack and died. He was 59. His wife, Cora, lived another 21 years. She died in 1956 at the age of 84 and was



In 1925, Charlie Chaplin and Mack Swain starred in Chaplin's masterpiece, *The Gold Rush*.

laid to rest at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California, where many famous actors are buried.

Consequently, here are some of the questions we are left with:

- If Mack died in Tacoma and was supposedly cremated, why is he thought to be buried in Huntsville?
- As a famous actor, why wouldn't Mack's grave be at Forest Lawn, near where his widow continued to live and where she was eventually buried?

beautiful silent film star. Despite their 36 years of marriage, they had no children. They did have a stock theater and often traveled together putting on shows across the

- How did Mack know about Huntsville? Did he give an oratory at the school/seminary college that use to be there? We *do* know that he performed weeks at a time at the Weinhard Theater in Dayton.

- Mack Swain's obituary in the *Dayton Chronicle* reads more like a story. Since it contains few facts, Moroni "Mack" Swain remains a mystery—at least for now.

Sources: *Dayton Chronicle*. Liz Carson interviews. Websites: *Ancestry.com*. *Findagrave.com*. *Fanpop.com*. *Wikipedia.org*. US Census.

Readers, do any of you know more than what I have found? If so, please submit the information via email to bluemountainheritage@gmail.com.

If you don't know, then finding the answers to this mystery offers a great challenge to tackle during our Covid-19 quarantine!



Mack Swain

Who Loves A Mystery?

by Roz Edwards, BMHS Vice-President

A new neighbor recently texted me a picture and statistics of a man who, according to records found on *Findagrave.com*, was buried at the Huntsville Cemetery: Moroni “Mack” Swain.

I live in Huntsville. It’s an unincorporated rural community just outside of Waitsburg. The Huntsville post office was established in 1880 and remained in operation until 1968. I have visited the Huntsville cemetery on the hill, but I do not recall seeing the name, Swain. I wanted to make sure. So I climbed the hill and let myself in through the old gate of the very tiny cemetery. Sadly, although I read every marker, I was unable to locate one for Mr. Swain. There were some broken ones, as well as some blank rocks and a wooden one. Thus, for me the mystery began.

I sent everything I had found on this delightful man to our local genealogy expert, Liz Carson, who thanked me for giving her a local mystery to delve into on a dreary, rainy day.

Between us, this is what we found: He was born February 16, 1876, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and had 23 siblings, most of them half—as his father had several concurrent

wives. Moroni ran away and joined a minstrel show at age 15. But after just one performance, his mother found him and brought him home. He begged her to let him join the troupe.

She relented, and he eventually found himself in Hollywood. Perhaps she remembered her own earlier years in Norway, where she sang with an opera company.

“POPPY COMEDIES”
MACK SWAIN
THE ONLY AND ORIGINAL “AMBROSE”

SURROUNDED BY A BEWITCHING BEVY OF BEWILDERING BEAUTIES
IN TWENTY-SIX SINGLE REEL COMEDIES TO BE RELEASED ONE EVERY WEEK
WHEN A COMEDY IS ANNOUNCED ON THE SCREEN SOME PEOPLE STRAIGHTEN UP & SAY
“NOW TRY AND MAKE ME LAUGH”
THESE COMEDIES ARE BUILT TO MAKE THE MOST HARDHEARTED GROUCH ROLL OFF HIS SEAT IN MIRTH.

THE FIRST RELEASE
“AMBROSE DAY OFF”

THE SECOND RELEASE
“DADY AMBROSE”

Distributed through State Right Exchanges.

If your territory is not already disposed of we advise your telegraphic inquiry

The following Exchanges have contracted for these productions without screen Examination and without looking at a still photograph

West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania: Harvey B. Day, Pittsburgh, Pa.
 Western Canada: Amalgamated Film Co., Ltd., Vancouver, B. C.
 Northern New Jersey: Aywon Film Corporation, 729 Seventh Avenue, New York City.
 New England States: Major Film Corporation, Boston, Mass.
 Wisconsin: Midwest Distributing Co., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Eastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey: Twentieth Century Film Co., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia and Virginia: Super Film Attractions, Washington, D. C.
 California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaiian Islands: Peerless Film Service, Inc., San Francisco, Cal.
 Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee and South Carolina: Savini Films, Inc., Atlanta, Ga.
 Entire World outside of United States, Dominion of Canada and Possessions: J. Frank Brockliss, Inc., New York City.
 New York State: Merril Film Exchange, 126 West 46th Street, New York City.

YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH US!

THE FROHMAN AMUSEMENT CORPORATION.

William L. Sherrill, President.

310 Times Building
New York City

began raising sheep, like his father had done in Norway. Later, Willis switched to growing grain. It all required much hard work and a great deal of perseverance.

Over time the family thrived. Along the way, Willis became known for a reminder about the family’s success that he often repeated to his three sons. “Don’t forget,” he would tell them, “we bought this place with horseflesh and the price of woman-kind.”

It’s an austere statement. But it realistically sums up life during the early years of homesteading in an area that became Columbia County. The statement also made an impact: It was known to be passed on through four generations of Thronsons.

Before Willis Thronson retired, he ordered a large obelisk from his native country of Norway. The black granite stone was shipped around Cape Horn. However, before it arrived, a storm at sea caused the stone to break loose, damage the ship, and sink the vessel. Willis promptly ordered a second stone. It arrived safely on the west coast, was put on a train, and traveled to Turner, which was the end of the railway line.



Photographed in the early 1900s, this is the fine home of the Charles J. Thronson family at Keystone Farm near Covello, Washington. It’s a grand step up from the “dug out hole in a dirt bank” that the Willis Thronson family, of which Charles was a son, had spent their first winter in upon arriving to the area four decades earlier.

From Turner, two wagons and several oxen were used to transport the stone the final three miles to Covello’s cemetery. It is said that mud and a deeply rutted road made the task a “struggle for man and beast.”

Today, the obelisk remains beautiful and in excellent shape. It stands, as it has for over 120 years, in honor

of the Willis Thronson family and their steadfast pioneering spirit. The monument also reminds us of the many others who came this way.

Sources: *Early Columbia County* by Wilda F. Fletcher. *Covello: A Pioneer Remembers* by Ward Rhinehart. *An Illustrated History of Southeastern Washington* compiled by Western Historical Publishing Company, 1906. “Family Histories Collection,” *bluemountainheritage.org* Interviews with Karen Thronson in 2020 and 2021.



A Selection of Columbia County Gravestone Inscriptions



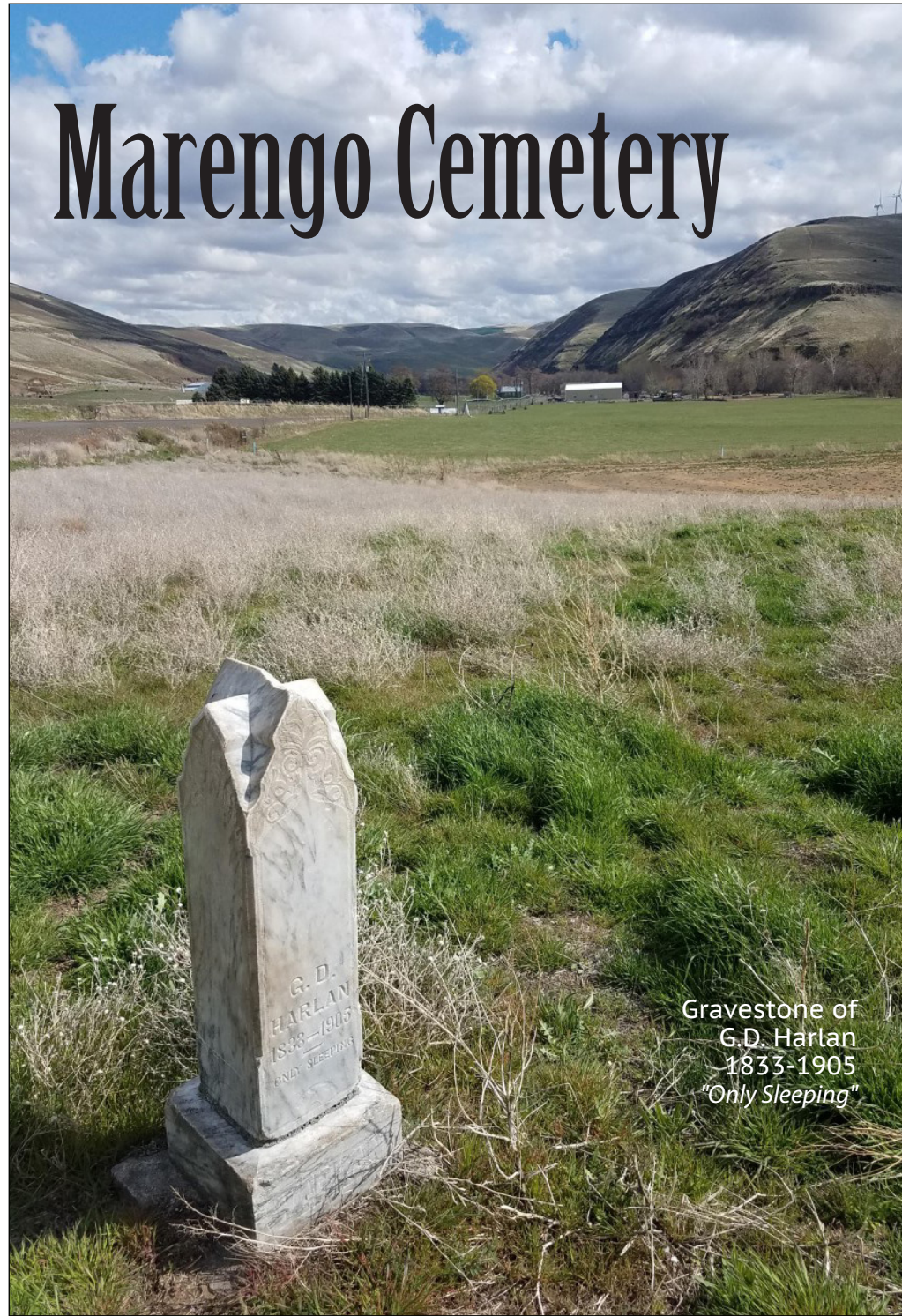
Cemetery	Name on Stone	Birthdate (if listed)	Death	Epitaph
Covello	Jessie Cyrus	Oct 4, 1835	Nov 15, 1909	<i>"There is a bright region above we hope to reach its shore. To meet the dear ones we love who has gone before."</i>
Covello	Melvina Fulle	1828	1908	<i>"Gone but not forgotten"</i>
Hartsock	Ralph Galloway	May 16, 1894	Age 24 days	<i>"Our little darling has gone to dwell among the angels"</i>
Huntsville	Margaret Dennis		Died Nov 25, 1888 Age 33	<i>"She lived and died in hope of eternal happiness"</i>
Marengo	Huldah Hutchens	Aug 15, 1891	Age 5 years	<i>"Little time on earth she spent, till God for her, his angel sent"</i>
Mt. Pleasant	Martha Haddock	12/12/1883	5 months, 24 days	<i>"Budded on Earth to Bloom in Heaven"</i>
Mt. Pleasant	Brytle McCauley	5/7/1885	2 years, 1 month, 17 days	<i>"Weep not for us Oh Parents dear, we are not dead but sleeping"</i>
Pioneer	Elizabeth Forrest Day	1838	1888	<i>"Founders of Dayton" (same as on the headstone for her husband, Jesse Day)</i>
Pioneer	John C. Gilbreath		July 17, 1873	<i>"Farewell"</i>
Starbuck	John Sveland	1882	1915	<i>"I.X.B.I A native of Greece"</i>
Starbuck	Phoebe Ruth Turner	1908		<i>"The river was our life. Operators of Lyons Ferry 1945-1968"</i>
Turner	T.E. Davidson		May 24, 1902, Age 70	<i>"In my father's house are many mansions"</i>
Turner	James H. McCall		April 13, 1903, Age 60	<i>"Our brother has departed while we tarry broken hearted"</i>
Turner	Rosa	Sept 10, 1884		<i>"Rest in peace, little angel"</i>

It was a beautiful day for a drive out the Whetstone, down Marengo Grade, across the Tucannon River, and onto the main road passing through the heart of the small community of Marengo. Just west of there, on the north side of the road, a lone standing gravestone helped us locate the Marengo Cemetery. It will be much harder to find when that stone meets the fate of all the others. The cemetery is fenced and there are remnants of a fancy gate that once led into the hallowed grounds.

The one easily-visible stone commemorates G. D. Harlan, (1833-1905) and is perched on a good-sized knoll that overlooks flat land running down to the river. From what can be gleaned from oral and written history, a cabin belonging to Louis Raboin stood on that flat until the flood of 1864. The land was part of 640 acres he acquired through the 1850 Oregon-Donation Act.

Raboin settled near the Tucannon River before the Cayuse Wars, the first white man to live in the area, but left during the conflicts. He later returned and lived in the vicinity with his wife Coletta Christiana (who was of the Flathead tribe) and their seven children. He was prosperous, with horses, cattle, crops, poultry, and land. Raboin's nick name was Moragne, which was derived from the French word for mosquito. In time, the area in which he lived came to be known as Marengo.

In 1864 while hoeing in his field, Louis "Morange" Raboin was murdered. The probate record indicates that half the estate



Gravestone of G.D. Harlan 1833-1905 "Only Sleeping"

transferred to his wife, the remainder was divided among his children.

It is not clear which of the Raboin children inherited the ground that later became the cemetery, but it soon ended up in the hands of James E. Silcott. Born in 1822, Silcott died in 1885 and was buried on the land. His grave marker has tumbled over but is still visible and readable. After Silcott, the land passed through family after family, including

that of William Wright, Alexander Smart, Otto Gowen, Edward Halgedahl, Allen McKibben, and the King family.

Most recently, the cemetery land was passed down through the Howard family. Warren Howard was Don Howard and Gerald Howard's grandfather. He settled in the Marengo area in about 1893 and sometime after that, possibly in the early 1930s, purchased the land that included the cemetery from Alice King Delany,



Headstone reads: HULDAH Dau. of TYRA & SARAH HUTCHENS Died Aug. 15, 1891. Aged 5 Ys 11 Ms & 4 Ds. Little time on earth she spent. Till God for her his angle sent.

widow of Henry Delany.

In 1885, the year Silcott died, Marengo was flourishing, with a flour mill, furniture factory, boarding house, school, blacksmith shop, livery stables, and a post office. Central to the community was the General Store, built in 1876 by Amos Clark Short, whose mother Esther Lucy Clark Short filed the plat for the town of Vancouver.

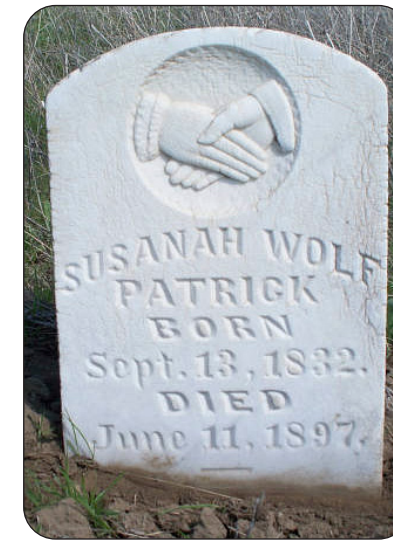
Amos Short was said to be a very large man who wore brown corduroy pants. In idle hours, he could be found sitting in front of the General Store with a flap of leather nailed to a stick which was his fly swatter. He would swat flies on his pants and shoes while his pet chicken, a little black hen, reaped the benefits. Amos did big business in Darter's Bitters, which promised to cure any complaint. Cherry bark, a little flavoring, and 95% alcohol did

the trick. Amos Short died in 1920 and is buried in the Marengo Cemetery.

Others buried in the cemetery include John Alexander Campbell (1849-1898), Amos Clark Short's son-in-law, who returned from the Klondike disheartened and committed suicide by taking laudanum, leaving behind a wife and many children. Also buried there: Sarah A Clayton (1858-1883); Mrs. Swede Nillson; David Bingham (1861-1928); Floyd Biddeson (1896-1899); Susanah Wolf Patrick (1832-1897); and Huldah Hutchens (1891, aged 5 yrs. 11 months and 4 days).

In one corner of the cemetery is a section in which Native Americans are reportedly buried.

The last burial in the Marengo Cemetery appears to have taken place sometime in 1928.



Headstone reads: Susanah Wolf Patrick, born Sept. 13, 1832, Died June 11, 1897



For this photo, the toppled headstone was excavated, righted, and propped up. It reads: James E. Silcott, Born in Loudon Co. Va. Dec. 22, 1822, Died Nov. 19, 1885.

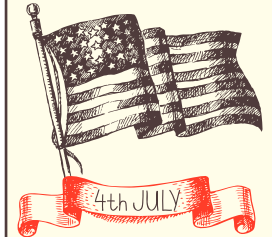
To start the town of Marengo, Silcott donated 20 acres of land, as well as an additional 10 acres for a flour mill site. Lots were given to whoever built on them.

June 22, 1912: *Columbia Chronicle*



An Invitation

Say all you boys and girls, papa and mamma, come over to Marengo about July 1st and stay with us about four days, and help us have a big time. Say, we are going to have all kinds of races from a pony race



to the big fat man's race. Big fireworks night of July 3 and 4. Big band concerts every day. Dancing afternoons and evenings, music by a five-piece orchestra. **Now don't miss a day** for we are going to have a lot of things to do.



(A dance floor was built on the flat for this annual event.)

Sources: F. A. Shaver's *An Illustrated History of Southeast Washington*. Kevin Carson's *A Concise History of the Columbia Plateau Indians and Columbia County, Washington*. U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM, General Land Office Records, land records. W.F. Fletcher's *Early Columbia County*. The Nadine Dieringer Newsletters, *Dayton's Main Street and More*. Charlotte O. Hutchens' *Early Columbia County Schools*. Websites: *HistoryLink.org*. *BlueMountainHeritage.org*. *Ancestry.com*. Interviews with Liz Carson and the Howard family.

Accident on the River

In May of 1921, two children died in an accident near Marengo on the Tucannon River.

To decorate their school for graduation, three or four students from Pomeroy had come to Marengo to gather foliage from along the Tucannon River. Since they knew Miss Leslie Adams who was teaching the lower grades at the Marengo school, the Pomeroy students asked her and her class to help gather ferns.

Across the river was a power plant. It provided electricity to both Marengo and

Pomeroy. Curious to see how the plant worked, the group began crossing the river on a swinging footbridge. However, with so many children on the bridge at one time, it collapsed, dropping most of them into the swift-flowing river below.

Hattie Howard (Don and Gerald Howard's great aunt) and Ivan Hovrud (Janet Howard's great uncle) were drowned. Hattie Howard was buried in the Dayton Cemetery. Ivan Hovrud was buried in Pomeroy.

(Interesting note: Delbert Howard rescued Emma McFall. She later became his wife.)