

BMHS Year-End Report: 2022 Annual Membership Meeting/Soup Supper

During the 2022 BMHS Annual Meeting/Soup Supper held on Wednesday, December 14 at the Delany Building in Dayton, Washington, outgoing BMHS President Paula Moisio provided the following overview of the year in review.

Welcome! It's wonderful to have you here after the 2020 and 2021 interruption due to COVID-19. I can guarantee an Annual Soup Supper over ZOOM is not nearly as fun or delicious.

The past nearly three years have been history in the making. As a historical society, it should have been an amazing time to experience events that make history so fascinating. The truth is the COVID-19 Pandemic didn't seem amazing. Instead, it rapidly became obvious that these kinds of events are much better to look at from an historic viewpoint than to live through.

The pandemic required challenging adjustments. Once businesses were allowed to reopen, we were faced with few visitors and a reduced base of volunteers.

Fortunately, our donors remained extremely loyal and we were able to continue our work preserving history.

For 2023, we have a renewed focus. And the prospects look most promising. As many of you know, we own the property on North Front Street where the Smith Hollow County Schoolhouse and the Dodge Quarantine Cabin are located. However, since its inception, we have rented space on Dayton's Main Street for the Palus Museum.

Given the rising overhead costs of maintaining multiple sites and our limited volunteer base, we are motivated to begin exploring the feasibility of building a structure on our current property. By working with the City and other entities, we will develop a solid plan and then begin the multi-year process of raising funds and securing grants.

While COVID-19 is not over, we are hopeful that the worst of the pandemic is behind us and that plans to increase momentum in 2023 will be unhindered. We appreciate the support of our membership and of our board members as we move forward with our history-preserving mission.

For 2023, this slate of officers and board members was presented and approved.

- Monte Fulbright, President**
- Paula Moisio, Vice-President**
- Mary Harri, Secretary**
- Dallas Dickinson, Treasurer**

Directors: Barbara Carlton, Rose Engelbrite, John Hutchens, Roslyn Edwards, and Randy James.

Following a hearty Soup Supper, veterans Eric Thorn and Russ Whipple shared memories about their time as helicopter pilots in Vietnam. Monte Fulbright facilitated the discussion, which provided an interesting look back in time.

Smith Hollow Schoolmarm

Presented by Miss Edwards, our special-occasion schoolmarm at Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse

March 1922

Good morning, class. You may be seated. Today we are rearranging our schedule for our promised early-spring field trip.

First, I will lecture on the biography of the last person in our series of prominent and notable, past and current county citizens. Pay close attention to the clues I give you. Let's see who will guess this person's name!

This person is a woman. She was born on Christmas Day in 1877. She is still alive and working in Dayton. She and her husband were married in October 1905. She loves to ride her bicycle around town, often carrying her camera. She poses with her friends with comical expressions and smiles for her photos. She also loves to hike and has taken photos from a cliff, while hanging onto a tree branch with one hand.

In 1915, she drove her friends up to the Penitentiary in Walla Walla in time to see a convict escaping. From her car, she called to the prison guards and their bloodhounds to "get in!" They did. She chased after the convict for over three miles before the guards and dogs caught up with the escapee in a wheat field.

She and her husband currently run The Mission Confectionary near the Liberty Theater. "Yes, Lydia, who is she? You are correct! Mrs. Minnie Moe! Well done."

I have heard several of you talk about going to the movies on the weekends, saying: "A nickle for the movie and a penny for Minnie Moe!" Mr. and Mrs. Moe's store leads a charmed life. Several times buildings around them have burned down, while theirs remains untouched.

Our field trip after lunch will be to ride in the back of Mr. Eslick's truck to The Mission

Confectionary! I am going to give each of you three cents to buy whatever you like. Mrs. Moe knows that you are coming and plans to share some photos and stories with you.

Remember your manners. Raise your hand if you have a question, and wait to be called on. This is going to be a delightful day. Perhaps Mrs. Moe will take our picture!



Minnie Moe with her bicycle.

PO Box 163
Dayton, WA 99328

Blue Mountain Heritage Society

Dedicated to preserving the diverse history of southeastern Washington

Winter • 2023

Newsletter

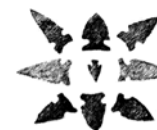
2023 BMHS Officers

- President:** Monte Fulbright
- Vice-President:** Paula Moisio
- Secretary:** Mary Harri
- Treasurer:** Dallas Dickinson
- Directors:** Barbara Carlton • Roslyn Edwards
Rose Engelbrite • John Hutchens
Randy James
- Honorary Directors:** Duane Dunlap • Karen Thronson

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

The Palus Museum

Summer Hours:
Saturdays 2 - 4 pm



426 East Main Street
Dayton, Washington

Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse

Summer Hours:
Saturdays Noon - 2 pm



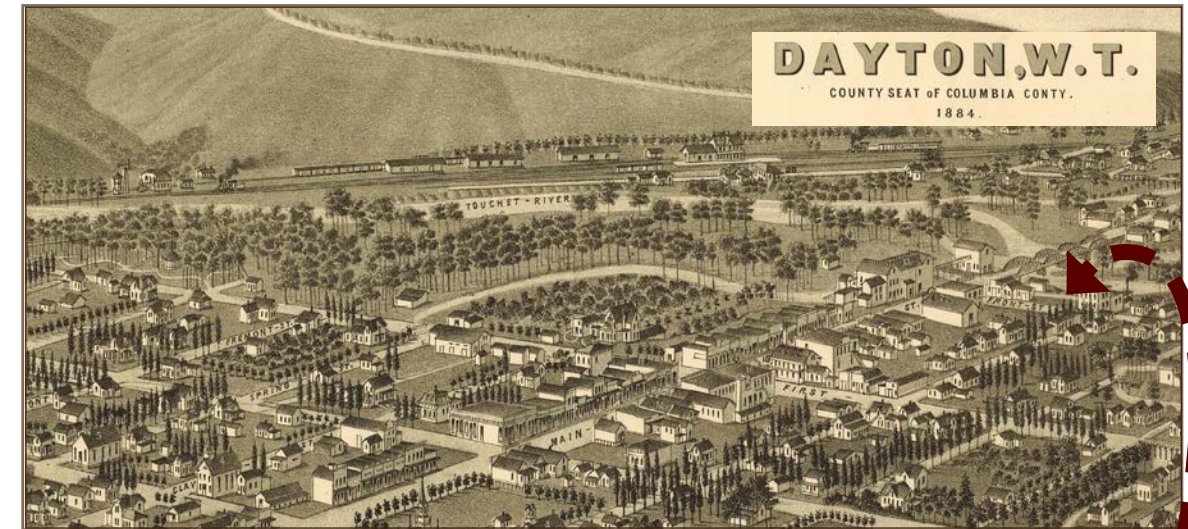
113 North Front Street
Dayton, Washington

Blue Mountain Heritage Society

— Board Meets Monthly —
2nd Wednesday – 4:00 pm

Delany Building
111 South Third Street
Dayton, Washington

Everyone is Welcome!



Local History Resource:

The Blue Mountain Heritage Society

Collecting, preserving, and presenting material to tell the story of southeastern Washington, especially of Columbia County, is what the Blue Mountain Heritage Society (BMHS) is all about.

The society was officially formed in 2004 as a nonprofit corporation under Washington State's Nonprofit Corporation Act. Today BMHS promotes the Blue Mountain region's rich cultural heritage through the Palus Museum, Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse, Dodge 1898 Quarantine Cabin, and the Sacajawea Statue. In addition,



On the 1884 map of Dayton, Washington Territory (top), the arrow (at the end of the dashed line) points to the lot on Front Street where a pair of Blue Mountain Heritage Society's museums—the Smith Hollow Country School House (above) and the Dodge 1898 Quarantine Cabin (left)—stand today.



the digitizing and posting of records and information on the BMHS website has opened learning about our local history to anyone with an interest and access to the internet. The family history information has shown to be of particular interest, both locally and from afar.

President's Message

Preserving Culture

Recently, I re-watched one of my favorite movies—*The Monuments Men*. The story takes place during WWII and involves a small group of men (and at least one woman) committed to going into wartime Europe to rescue paintings, sculptures, and other priceless cultural artifacts that Hitler had robbed from museums, churches, and private collections.

I won't give away any spoilers, but let it suffice to say that this is a rollicking story that makes you cheer at some points and sigh in grief at others.

Based on actual events, what struck me about this story was the question a lead character asked as he advocated President Roosevelt in favor of the proposed rescue mission. Referring to the Statue of David, the Mona Lisa, and other religious relics, he rhetorically asks the president, "who will be their protectors?"

Convinced, President Roosevelt directs him to pull together a select group of art scholars and museum directors to go to Nazi-occupied Europe, find the great works, and save them from almost certain loss or destruction.

Similarly, our focus is on preserving cultural history. Our task is not presidential. And we are not asked to risk our lives (or livelihood), but it will be heroic, nonetheless.

If you have an interest in history or vintage memorabilia, or just want to participate in a rollicking good adventure, become involved in the Blue Mountain Heritage Society. A final line from *The Monuments Men* movie is, "...if you destroy their achievements, their history, it's like they never existed..." This point goes hand in hand with our mission statement: Dedicated to preserving the diverse history of southeast Washington.

Monte Fulbright, President
bluemountainheritage@gmail.com

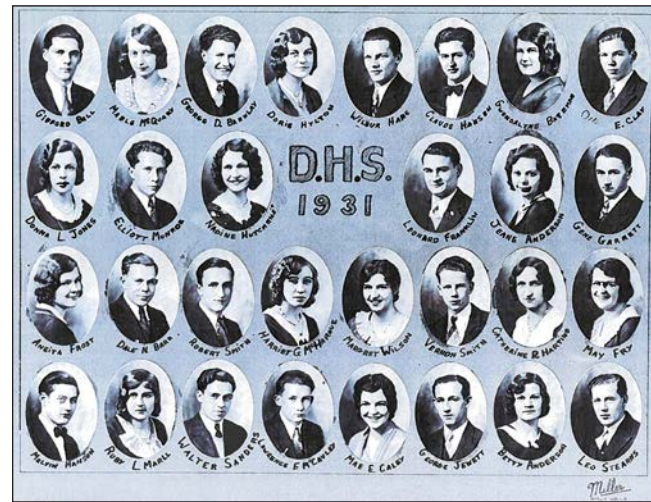
Blue Mountain Heritage Society
<https://bluemountainheritage.org>

Resource - Continued from Page 1

The Palus Museum, at 427 East Main Street in Dayton, offers a glimpse of the region's past through a collection of art and locally-found Indian artifacts. A Lewis & Clark exhibit and homestead display are also featured.

Located in this same building is the Columbia County Veterans Display. It was assembled by BMHS in partnership with Dayton's American Legion Frank E. Bauers Post 42.

At the BMHS website, the legion has graciously shared much of their compiled history, and Liz Carson spent untold hours gathering biographies and details on southeast Washington's volunteers and soldiers. Information on Columbia County



BMHS's website has Dayton High School class pictures dating from 1880.

Veterans who were active in the Civil War, Afghanistan War, Korean War, and Vietnam War are also included.

In Dayton, at the corner of North First Street and East Commercial Street, the bronze statue of Sacajawea was installed by the Blue Mountain Heritage Society in 2009. Titled *Arduous Journey*, the piece was created by the late sculptor Carol Ann Grende.



Students from Starbuck School District's lower grades, along with teacher Robin Billow and other staff, recently enjoyed a field trip to the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse. While in character, schoolmarm Roz Edwards guided them through a typical school day of the late 1800s, which started with Edwards ringing the teacher's desk bell to call them into the building. Visitors enjoyed the hands-on exhibits, player piano, typewriters, chalk boards, and especially ringing the big bell out front. It took four students working together to make that bell toll. They also toured the Dodge 1898 Quarantine Cabin and the early-day household exhibit.



Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse Museum



Nadine Dieringer, Publisher

5th Publication

September 30, 1993



IT TAKES ENTHUSIASM AND DETERMINATION

If enthusiasm get things done, then Gary Lowe is the person to get the job done, as proven by his instigating a Green Giant figure on the hill above Bob and Nadine Warren's house just west of town about a half mile. The Giant is back to overlook his valley. Many will remember him when he first appeared twenty-three years ago a little farther west than the present location.

Gary, son of the late Jack Lowe, lived in Dayton during his childhood and graduated from Dayton High School in 1960. He now lives in Belton, Texas. He has a deep devotion for Dayton with returning to Dayton each year during his vacation. Throughout the years he has missed seeing the Green Giant on the hill and decided to pursue getting the Giant once again on a hill. He worked with the school to get students to participate in the project and Green Giant Company in getting equipment and materials to do the job. He believes Dayton could have a bright future with extensive promotion of the Courthouse, the Depot, the Green Giant on the hill and the Green Giant Commnv.



THE GIANT ONCE AGAIN REIGNS OVER HIS VALLEY FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

While I was admiring the project, the Jamison's, owners of the PDQ, came to check out the project. There were many travelers going through town who stopped at PDQ and asked what was going on with all the people on the side of the hill just out of town. So you can see already the Giant has been noticed by many as he was brought back to life once again on his hill.

FACTS & A BIT MORE

IN THE PAST

The first Giant, located on the late Henry Krause land, was instigated in 1970. Lowell Richter, Bill Kayser and Don Brunner, being the "key" people, worked on the project with other employees helping. The idea of projecting a giant on a hillside and "over" fertilize it to produce the "green" was presented by Bill Crumpacker of Chevron to the Green Giant Company. Chevron provided the fertilizer which was carried up the steep hillside and spread by hand by Green Giant employees.

In 1972 the figure was restored using grass seed and fertilizer. It was not as successful as hoped.

The Giant was moved in 1974, 200 feet by a Green Giant Company crew making it more accessible by road for taking maintenance material to the Giant.

In 1992 the Research Department of Green Giant Company again set a Giant image in another location. Randy Mann, head of the Research Department and his crew of Gale Davis, Jerry Webster and other employees did this work.

All the silhouettes faded throughout the years, so Gary Lowe's thoughts were to outline the image in 1993.

BACK TO 1993

The Giant is as tall as a football field - 300 feet tall by 60 feet wide. The Giant's legs are 130 feet long.

The Giant will be seen the year round because of being outlined with the white rock.

There are plans being considered to place a spotlight alongside the Touchet River below the Giant's feet so it will be visible at night.

There are plans in the making to eliminate the Star Thistle and plant grass seed within the Giant's outline.

Approximately 1200 punus blocks outline the Giant, each being the size of 8 inches by 16 inches and weighing two pounds. Five pickups transported the blocks to the project.

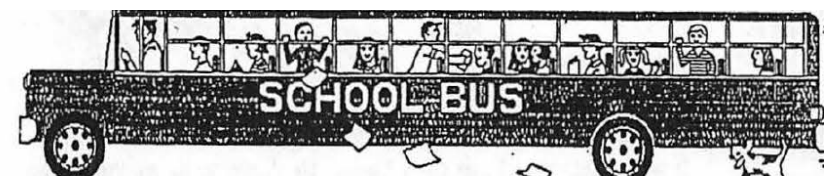
There were nine 4x4 pickups owned by Green Giant Company employees transporting block and people from the bottom of the hill to the top of the project.



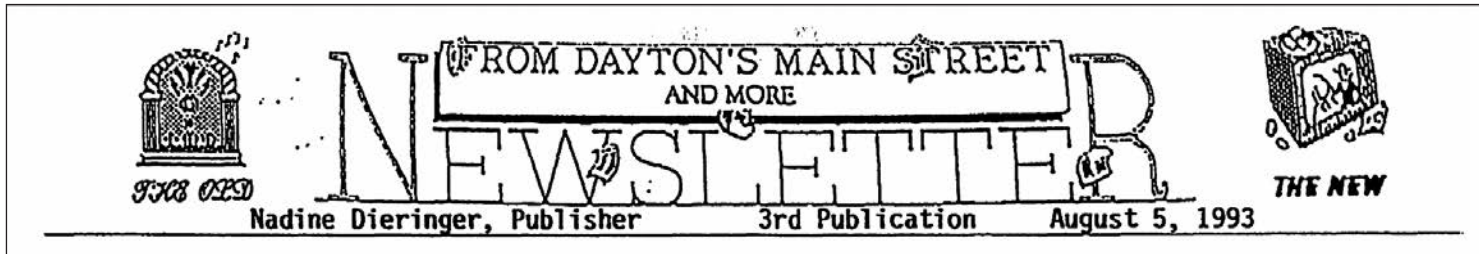
One can donate to the project for paint and other supplies (perhaps to help see the lighting materialize) through the Citizens for Community Projects. Contact Don Himmelberger or Karen Hoyle.

A genuine thanks go out to all those students and teachers for their part in the Giant project.

94 STUDENTS - 3 TEACHERS



GRADE 12 - Cara Bachart, Angela Barron, Harold Clarys, Heather Hoon, Ophelia Howley, Johnny Martinez, Jimmie Munden, Jeremy Powers, April Robanske, Carsten Sandvik, Sarah Schreck, Celeste Seibel, Lorna Vance, Tamara Ward, Jeremy Wheatley. GRADE 11 - Jose Acevedo, Jerry Carlson, Mike Hellyer, Jeremy Hubbard, Will Hutchens, Dez Robins, Jamie Smith, Justin Steinhoff, Jeremy Trump, Lora Zink. GRADE 10 - J. Biegel, Kim Cush, Aeo Dunleavy, Erika Envila, Ryan Gerlitz, Tim Jones, Jeremy Laib, Susan McElroy, Eric Mendel, Jason Powers, Joe Thorne, Sara Williams. GRADE 9 - Marcos Acevedo, Charles Barron, Alicia Berg, Stephanie Biegel, T. J. Dobbs, Mike Gembala, Robin Howard, Clay Hutchens, Ryan Jagelski, Chris Laib, Ryan Laughery, Diana Martinez, Debra McElroy, Pat McManamon, George Ras, Carl Robanske, Jamie Zink. GRADE 8 - Carlos Acevedo, Amy Alves, Amanda Compson, Dusty Crapper, Tressa Hawks, Justin Jording, John Lambert, Abby McKinley, Amanda Mott, Sabrina Smith, Cody Steinhoff, Corey Suffield, Jonathon Suffield, Jenny Sutterfield, Ben Thomas, Crystal VanScotter, Misti Walker. GRADE 7 - Tim Alves, Jessica Bachart, Tanner Bickelhaupt, Nathan Cummings, Wesley Davis, Caleb Durkee, Travis Herzog, Josh Hopwood, Brian Howard, Megan Jagelski, Marjo Jennings, Heath Kirk, Jess Loveland, Jason Lujan, David Powers, Tim Powers, Azeret Rodriguez, Julie Rodriguez, Jamie Savage, Jeff Sinkbeil, Justin White. GRADE 6 - Nathan Boggs, Chad Gerlitz. STAFF - Van Cummings, Gordon Gerlitz, Steve McLean.



Nadine Dieringer, publisher of *From Dayton's Main Street and More Newsletter*, August 12, 2005 at the Weinhard Hotel.

Newsletter publisher Nadine Dieringer had a deep appreciation and respect for Dayton and Columbia County. It's where she was born. In a span of some eight decades, it's also where she went to school, worked, married, and lived. "People here should know about the history of their community," Nadine once said. For nearly 16 years, she quietly went about seeing that they did. At her own expense, Nadine spent hours researching, assembling, printing,

and distributing the newsletter she published, *From Dayton's Main Street and More*. It offered an eclectic mix of current local news as well as a history of the community's past. Nadine shared a few of her own stories, too. From June 1993 to February 2009, free copies of the two-sided, single-sheet publication would show up monthly on counters in Dayton's stores and businesses. During that time, Nadine published 184 editions of her newsletter.

On May 12, 2013, Nadine Dieringer died. The family kindly allowed the Blue Mountain Heritage Society to scan and make available on the Society's website PDF versions of all of her newsletters. To peak your reading interest, here's a sampling of what the website files offer. And below is the direct link to the "Dieringer Newsletter" documents. Enjoy!
<https://bluemountainheritage.org/?s=Dieringer+Newsletter>

Dayton's Main Street and More - The Old and The New, 127th Publication - May 21, 2004

Early Statistics Reveal County First in State

Dayton Chronicle - 1971
By Dail Butler Laughery

Statistics gathered in 1878 bearing directly upon the conditions of Columbia county in those early days will certainly prove of more than passing interest to the present and future generations.

The following were copied from the assessor's books by County Auditor O. C. White.

Total number of inhabitants, 5,820; number of voters in Columbia county, 1705; number of voters in town of Dayton, 251; number of voters in the county east of Tucannon, 605; total assessment, \$1,520,887; personal property, \$1,014,235; real estate, \$506,652; increase in population 1,944 - over 50 per cent; increase in taxable property \$398,764 - over 35 per cent.

This population of 5,820 made Columbia county in 1878 the most densely populated of any county in the Territory. Walla Walla was a close second with 5,701 and King county third

From the 93rd Publication on 7/21/01

Harri, Thorn Lead Grads

Dayton Chronicle - May 5, 1966

For the first time in the history of Dayton High School, two graduating senior will share honors as valedictorians.

Elizabeth Harri, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. E. J. Harri, and Jim Thorn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Thorn, have both completed their high school academic work with matching grade points of 4.0, perfect "A" grades throughout all four high school years.

Salutatorian for the 1966 graduating class will be Larry Faulkner, son of Mrs. Paul Danielson, who compiled a grade point mark of 3.91.

Commencement exercise for the 70 graduates of 1966 will be 8 p.m. Thursday, June 2, according to Principal Ben Pease. It is hoped that the ceremony can be held in the new school gymnasium.

From the 93rd Publication on 7/21/01

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 1991?

In 1991, the Courthouse was waiting for the restoration/renovation to get underway.

City Council was working at cutting costs on the Main Street Project and then setting final bids.

with 5,443. At that period the total population of the state was only 51,333 thus leaving to Columbia county nearly one-ninth of the total inhabitants in the Territory.

From the Assessor's books of that year we find that the total acreage of Columbia county (then including, of course, Garfield and Asotin) was as follows: wheat, 28,337 acres; barley, 4,260; oats, 4,260; corn, 555; potatoes, 205; timothy, 633; orchards, 496; alfalfa, 15; flax 14 and clover, 3.

Quite a grand showing for a county only officially seven years old!

Local author Kevin Carson is always working on items of interest. He often partners with his mother, Liz Carson (our treasured home-town historian) and provides us with information about the past we can rely on.

When the BMHS featured a presentation on Frank Finkel—who claimed to be the sole soldier to survive the Battle of the Little Big Horn—we turned to Liz and Kevin for their expertise and research ability to find the answers.

Kevin Carson's book, *Long Journey of the Nez Perce*, was first published as a hardback book in 2011. The title is now also available on Kindle and in paperback, along with an audio version narrated by Kirk O. Winkler.

Currently, Kevin Carson is working on a publication that features a character known in the Northwest as Molly B'Damn. Below is an excerpt of what's to come. We hope to have his finished work available here locally soon!

Mollie Berdan - AKA:

Mollie B'Damn

Mollie Berdan had a passion for horses. She owned both trotters and thoroughbreds in New York. Mollie posted an advertisement in the Northwest papers that she had rented the Duwamish racing course and that she would be running her "nag" mare Trade Dollar against all comers. All of the records of the horse she had acquired, showed that the mare was a remarkable horse. Trade Dollar came from the best stock; Norfolk was the sire and Eva Ashton was the Dam. They were champions in their own right.

Mollie set up a remarkable confidence scheme so that if any of the races went awry, she had other side bets that would cover her losses, and her penultimate goal was to sell the beautiful, fleet of foot mare, Trade Dollar for the best price possible. Mollie ran a two-stage hustle. First, she had just announced to the world that she was running a "nag" horse. This is an old trick used to lower

expectations. Second, on the day of the race, she filled the stands with con men she had hired. The job of the confidence men was to raise excitement and make side bets in the stands. She also had a dark horse in the race not attributed to her. The horse was named Caddie R.

Mollie made a great deal of money from this enterprise. She passed through Dayton and on to Walla Walla where she was also able to sell her two horses at a premium to a horse racing aficionado, H.P. Issacs. Mr. Issacs, of course, was a millionaire in Walla Walla.

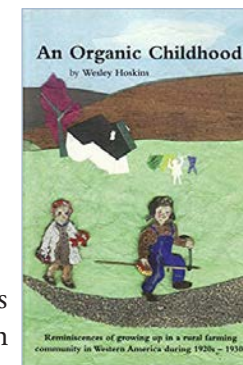
He soon ran his new horses in March of 1882 in what the papers called, "The best race ever run on the Pacific Coast." In 1884 Trade Dollar won at the Capital Turf Club. As late as 1887, Trade Dollar won several races in New York winning by three lengths. Mr. Isaacs sold Trade Dollar and Caddie R. to George R. Buchannon for \$2,000.00 in gold.

(Printed with permission from Kevin Carson.)

Books by Local Authors

At the Palus Museum and the Smith Hollow County Schoolhouse, you can find a selection of history-orientated books by some local authors.

An Organic Childhood by Doctor Wesley Hoskins tells about his life growing up on a rural farm in Columbia County, Washington, during the 1920s and 1930s. The book includes



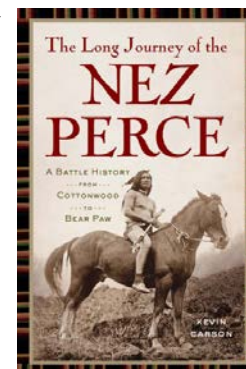
his pencil sketches of country life. Published, January 1, 2012.

Early Columbia County Schools by Charlotte Hutchens, a long-time teacher in Columbia County, is a compilation of stories about the area's early-day schools. Published, July 29, 1992.

Eternally at War by Captain Robert G. Lathrop, USMC and Jeannette Vaughn provides a Vietnam memoir that not only honors the soldiers who served in the war, but also shows the

suffering and aftermath. Published, September 9, 2016.

Long Journey of the Nez Perce by Kevin Carson tells the history of the tribe, including battles from Cottonwood to Bear Paw. Hardback version published August 4, 2011.



Wait's Mill: The Story of the Community of Waitsburg, Washington by Ellis and Elvira Ellen Laidlaw combines regional history with firsthand accounts of families who settled the local area. Published 1970, reprinted 1996.

Some Named Places

Baileysburg — This small village, three miles south of Dayton, was settled on the Touchet River by the Bailey family in 1861. A sawmill and later a shingle factory were located here. But it was Bailey's water-powered furniture factory that helped put Baileysburg on the map. It produced chairs, dressers, spool beds, kitchen cabinets, rockers, church benches, stairways, newel posts, store counters, decorative doors, and chairs with rawhide bottoms. The furniture was sold locally or hauled by wagon and team to Lewiston, Colfax, Pomeroy, Walla Walla, and Waitsburg. In 1883, Mr. Bailey sold the furniture factory to Mr. Donley (his son-in-law). Later, Mr. Donley sold the business to his son, Mark Donley. The factory burned in 1915, and Mark went to work for Suffield Furniture in Dayton. When the factory closed, Baileysburg lost its primary claim for industrial recognition.

Burksville — South of Marengo and east of Turner—in the southwest quarter of Section 27, Township 40 East, Range 11 North—a small settlement called Burksville was founded in 1874 by Marshall B. Burk. The post office, with Mr. Burk as postmaster, operated from 1875 to 1879. Burksville also had a store that served about 60-70 area residents. The settlement's demise came in 1881 when Mr. Burk closed his store and sold the property to S.J. Lowe, a stockman known to raise "fine sheep and horses."

Covello — For several years, the settlement that later became Covello was first known as Pioneer. In 1882, Mr. Wulzen and Mr. Schroder, prosperous businessmen from San Francisco, opened a large store in Pioneer. That same year, local citizens petitioned the U. S. Post Office Department in Washington, D.C. for a post office. In 1883, their request for a post office named Covello was granted. The townsite of Covello was surveyed in May 1884, and the plat was recorded in February 1889. Covello grew steadily. By 1891, in addition to the store and post office, there were two blacksmith shops, a shoemaker, a steam planer and chop mill, a school, several residences, and prospects for a church. The continual hope was for a railroad connecting Covello with Dayton. A railway bed was graded. Iron rails, however,

were never laid. The line went instead to Turner. Covello's population in 1900 was 107. The post office closed in 1918. Covello's cemetery atop a nearby hill is all that remains.

Grange City — In 1873, at the mouth of the Tucannon River on the abandoned Fort Taylor site along the Snake River, Dayton merchants and area grain shippers began receiving and shipping freight via Oregon Steam Navigation Company (O.S.N. Co.) steamers. In 1875, Colonel George Hunter led a local Grange Movement to advance agriculture. Hunter worked with other businessmen to improve the site with a "wharf boat" (to facilitate loading and unloading freight) and additional warehouses. In 1876, area farmers formed the Grange Warehouse Company, and they named the site Grange City. For several years, the river trade allowed this commercial center to thrive. Shipments of freight came in. Loads of Portland-bound goods—wheat, flour, bacon, and wool—shipped out. At its peak, the community had six warehouse buildings, two homes, a livery, a blacksmith, a hotel, and, of course, an ever-popular saloon. But with the completion of a railway line to Dayton and the addition of another railway line a few miles up the Snake River at Texas Ferry, Grange City faltered.

Hompegg Falls — Southeast of Dayton, 13 miles up the Touchet River, Hompegg Falls was developed as a summer resort. The "HOMPEGG" name came from the first letter of the developers' family names: Hexter, Oppenheimer, Myers, Pietryzcki, Eckler, (Dennis) Guernsey, and (Frank) Guernsey. The group is also given credit for naming Hompegg Falls, a spring-fed waterfall that flowed from the rock cliff and emptied into the North Fork of the Touchet River. A major flood in 1931 destroyed the resort and altered the falls.

Huntsville — On the Touchet River—seven miles west of Dayton—is the small village of Huntsville. This community was known for its flour mill and for being "largely devoted to educational matters." In an effort led by B.J. Hunt, ninety acres were donated for a townsite, which was surveyed in 1878 and named Huntsville.



That winter, members of the United Brethren denomination pledged \$10,000 for a seminary college. The two-story college building was built in 1879 to accommodate "about 150 students." The town soon also had a mill, store, market, post office, blacksmith shop, several residences, and a public school. Prior to 1900, the college closed. Huntsville continued on as a trading point for area residents. It also maintained an academy for preparing students for entrance into collage.

Marengo — An area that later became Marengo was settled in the 1850s by a high-spirited French Canadian named Louis Raboin. The local Native Americans called him *Maringouin*, French slang for mosquito. Local pioneers called him Marengo and named their settlement on the Tucannon River in his honor. In 1876, the stage stop of Marengo battled the unincorporated town of Dayton to be named the permanent seat of the newly established Columbia County. That November, by a vote of 300 to 418, Marengo lost out to Dayton. In May 1876, a townsite was platted. At its peak, Marengo had a store, post office, flour mill, furniture factory, blacksmith shop, schoolhouse, stables, hotel, and saloon. But it did not last. By 1905, even the post office had closed.

Perry — In 1881, the Perry post office was established with Daniel Lyons as the postmaster. This small community, located on the Snake River at Lyons Ferry in the northwest tip of Columbia County, served many farmers. Mr. Lyons also ran the ferry for several years. Perry was later relocated across the river to Whitman County at the mouth of the Palouse.

Riparia — About five miles up from the mouth of the Tucannon, on the Columbia County side of the Snake River, was Riparia. Initially called South Texas, the Riparia post office was

Post Offices

Alto (1882-1903)	Lenan (1881-1882)
Annetta (1877-1878)	Marengo (1876-1905)
Burksville (1875-1880)	*Patit (1873/1880)
Covello (1883-1918)	Perry (1881-1927)
Dayton (1872-Current)	Starbuck (1883-Current)
Gabel (1880-1883)	*Touchet (1864-1872)
*Gross (1902/1915)	Turner (1904-1934)
Huntsville (1880-1968)	

*This post office was discontinued and later reinstated.
*In 1872, Touchet was renamed Dayton.

established here in 1882, and the Texas Ferry crossed the Snake at this point. On August 12, 1884, the engine house burned and locomotive number 10 was severely damaged. In 1888, a steel railroad bridge with granite piers (cut from a bluff several miles up the river) was completed. Riparia then moved to the Whitman County side of the Snake River.

Rushville — Located on the Tucannon River near the current fish hatchery, Rushville was promoted by Bert Curl, the small community's unofficial mayor. While out deer hunting, Bert Curl and Henry Patrick discovered a vein of ore. Patrick then spent years developing a mine into the hill. This mining activity led to the building of Patrick Grade Road.

Thumbsville — About 10 miles above Mountain Home Park, at the head of the Robinson Fork, a lumber town called Thumbsville was established. The settlement was home to the lumbermen and their families. A store, school, and church thrived. To transport logs to Dayton, a 21-mile-long flume was built. When the lumber business declined, however, and the railroads no longer used wood for fuel, Thumbsville dwindled. The flume was eventually put to rest.

Turner — In 1901, a new railway line extended from Dayton and terminated on Benjamin Turner's ranch. Area farmers no longer had to haul their grain by wagon to Dayton. A townsite was surveyed and the plat was recorded in 1902 by Mr. Turner, for whom the town was named. By 1903, a school, a boarding house, and a store had been built. In 1904, a post office was established. It remained in operation until 1934.