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

December 1924

Good morning, students! Today we will start the biography assignment. Who knows what "biography" means? Very good, Laurel! That's exactly right. It means "life writing or story."

In this assignment, you will choose a relative much older than you to interview. Does anyone know what "interview" means? No? How many of you receive the local newspaper? Great! Well, the articles are written by reporters. To get information about a person they are writing about, the "reporter" asks him questions. It is a process the reporter uses to become more acquainted with him. The person being interviewed is called an "interviewee."

That's what you will be doing over your Christmas vacation—"interviewing" a relative. You see, boys and girls, your grandmas and grandpas, aunts and uncles, even your parents may seem quite old to you.

But once they were children just like you. They had favorite toys, books, and adventures.

Now, please get your copy tablets out. Centered on the top line of a new sheet in your tablet, write "Interviewee Questions." While I write the 10 interview questions on the blackboard, you copy them down. If you think of more questions to ask your relative, write the questions and answers down for extra credit. You might be surprised to find out that many of your relatives are locally well-known. When we return from our holiday break, during the first week of the New Year—1925—you will each be sharing your assignment in front of the class. Person's full name:

Relationship to you:

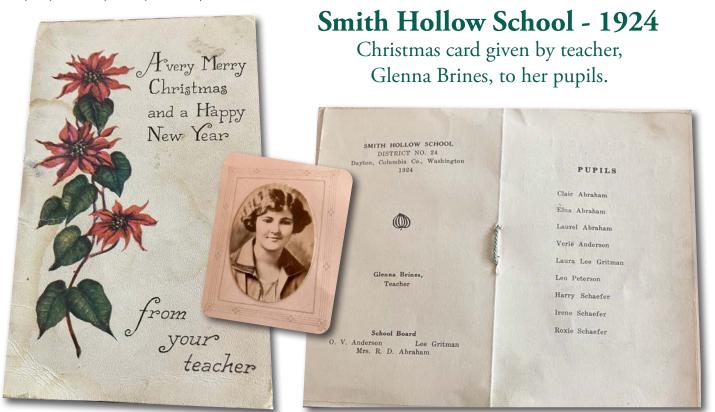
- 1. Who did you like to play with?
- 2. What was your favorite game?
- 3. What was your favorite book?

- 4. What song did you like to sing?
- 5. What was your favorite subject in school?
- 6. What was your favorite dessert?
- 7. What did you NOT like to eat?
- 8. What did you want to be when you grew up and where did you want to live?
- 9. What chores did you do?
- 10. If you had pets, what kind were they and what were their names?

When you are finished copying the questions, put your tablet away. After school, remember to take your list of questions home with you. I believe you will have an enjoyable time with this assignment, as will your relative.

By the way, the new words we talked about today will be on your spelling list to start off the new year.

Well done. I believe it's time for recess!





면 2023 BMHS Officers 모

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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

Blue Mountain Heritage Society

--- Board Meets Monthly --2nd Wednesday - 4:00 pm

Delany Building 111 South Third Street Dayton, Washington

Everyone is Welcome!



Families of the Area

Names of today's area families often trace back to settlers who put down roots mid-nineteenth century in what became Columbia County, Washington Territory—and later Washington State.

From Denmark to Dayton: The Johnson/Dickinson Family

In 1879, Rasmus Christian Jenson completed his apprenticeship as a blacksmith in the village of Orsted, Denmark. Rasmus was the second son of seven children born to John and Anne Marie Jensen. John Jensen was a tailor and had hopes that all of his sons would carry on the trade. Rasmus had other plans for his future and paid \$75 to sail to America. The journey landed him in New York, without many resources but with an adventurous spirit and the willingness to work hard.

In time, the young Dane moved to the Midwest and sent funds for his brother, Andreas to join him. After the brothers tired

of the severe Midwest winters, they decided to head further west and landed in Dayton. In 1886, Rasmus Christian (now going by the name "Chris"), was hired out as a blacksmith to a man named Burkhard. His brother Andreas (now going by the Americanized name "Andrew") set to work initially on the railroad but eventually worked for the Weinhard Brewery.

The brothers worked hard, saved their money, and sent tickets for friends and relatives to join them in the Washington Territory. Their brother, Jens Jensen, was the third sibling to move to the new land, and by this time all of the Jensen men were going

continued on page 2

President's Message

Pioneers: Past... and Present!

I had a distant cousin named Hank Vaughn who lived during the late 1800s. He was a colorful character who seemed to be on the wrong side of the law on multiple occasions. One story related to him occurred as he and another cowboy began arguing in a saloon. The conversation got so heated that they decided to settle it in the livery stable. Once there they had someone tie their left forearms together, and when the lantern was blown out they started firing their revolvers into each other. Both men were seriously injured, and Hank ended up carrying at least one of the bullets with him for the rest of his life. Incidentally, both men survived, and Hank had many more opportunities to bend and stretch the law in this and other counties.

We've dedicated this edition of the newsletter to the brave, forward-thinking men and women who helped civilize and settle Dayton and the surrounding area. I'm sure that some of them, like Hank, served to add a little color to what may have been an even-paced and predictable lifestyle. Many of the historical events from our past came as a result of common everyday business activities and hard

Not all of us had someone in our family tree that helped shape the area we live in. That's okay. Pioneers didn't just live a hundred or two hundred years ago; they live among us today and are the industrious, entrepreneurial souls that are shaping our current community, and adding some color and hopefully a little moral character to our existence.

You may not come from a great pioneer heritage, but you can be a pioneer vourself!

Monte Fulbright, President bluemountainheritage@gmail.com Blue Mountain Heritage Society https://bluemountainheritage.org Families - Continued from Page 1

by Johnson. The brothers eventually saved enough to send for their Danish sweethearts. Andrew's girlfriend in Denmark, however, was reluctant to sail, and she declined the opportunity.

Blue Mountain Heritage Society • Fall 2023 Newsletter

This was fateful for a young Swedish girl who had moved to Denmark to be with her sister. Clara Warren, 15, ioined the other two women and embarked on the journey to join the Johnson brothers in Dayton on June 7, 1888. Two years later, Clara and Andrew were married in the Congregational Church.

Clara and Andrew built a home on West Patit and lived there until 1897 when they purchased property on the Whetstone (later owned by the Bramhall family). The young couple from Denmark had four children: a son, Charles, and daughters Jennie, Hazel, and Lenora.

The Johnson brothers influenced the establishment of the area in several ways. With the family ties still strong in Denmark, several more family members migrated to the area. Cousin Nels also sought out adventure in the new land. Only one of the six sons born to John and Anne Jensen remained in Denmark. Although Therkild remained in the homeland, several of his sons came to Dayton. One of his sons, Peder (later called "Peter") was nineteen when he arrived and he used his diploma proving him

Special Presentation

About Columbia

County History

(Specific Topic TBD)

to be a suit maker to set himself up in trade. In addition to working as a tailor, he worked on several ranches in the summertime. Eventually, Peter bought out the only tailor shop in Dayton from Mr. Nicholson. To further his



Andrew Johnson Andrew Johnson Americanized his name from the Danish version of Andreas Jenson.

success, Peter purchased 160 acres on Smith Hollow, but claimed it was "so dusty and dirty that hardly anything would grow there."

Another son of Therkild Jensen came to Dayton in 1906. John Johnson worked at the Dayton Flour Mill for 46 years. He also founded the Pioneer Orchestra in Dayton. Several other siblings, including Martin and Anders,

Wednesday December 13, 2023

Join us for our traditional soup supper and a short

history—first hand—from some folks who lived it!

annual meeting. Then enjoy learning a bit of

5:30 pm

Blue Mountain Heritage Society

Annual Meeting

Bring a friend.

Everyone is welcome!

Delany Building • 111 S 3rd Street • Dayton, Washington



Orril "Ora" (Monnett) Low Married Grant Low Dec 3, 1891. Oct 30, 1871 - Nov 4, 1920 (aged 49)

Grant Low possessed courage and determination and was not afraid to work. After several months as a hired farmhand, he purchased one hundred sixty acres—on credit—and began farming for himself. That same year, on December 3, 1891, Grant Low married Orril "Ora" Monnett, the daughter of a prominent Dayton, Washington, businessman.

Within five years, the young couple had cleared their place of all indebtedness. From this beginning, they steadily added to their holdings. Grant used progressive methods in the care and cultivation of their land. With Ora's help, he also carefully managed their business affairs and investments. In time, the Lows

owned thousands of acres, farmed six hundred additional acres under a lease. and Grant became known as one of the leading agriculturists of Columbia County, Washington.

Over the years, Ora and Grant had five children: Harry Walace Low, Josephine (Low) Pulliam, Alberta (Low) Thompson, Nelle C. (Low) Thronson, and Donald Grant Low. Tragically, a wagon accident killed Harry at the age of six.

Low descendants married into a number of local pioneer families, including Dohr, Pulliam, Thronson, Smith, Thompson, and McCauley.

Grant Low took an interest in several Dayton businesses, especially the Columbia Meat Market and The Low Motor Company, The motor company, an authorized Buick dealership, sold both new and used cars.

At the time of his death in 1940, Grant Low was serving his second term as a Columbia County commissioner, and Carlos and Nelle (Low) Thronson were farming the Covello ranch. When Carlos died in 1955, Grant and Ora's grandson, Mike Thompson continued to operate the farm until he died in 1974. Ora Low had died in 1920 at 49.

The Grant and Ora Low story is an example of pioneer spirit and commitment—to the land, one's family, and to the local community.

returning home on horseback after fighting in the Civil War. As he neared the family homestead, he encouraged his horse to leap over the last gate. His loaded pistol flew out of its holster, hit the ground, and went off, shooting Fry. No doctors were nearby. He died a

month later at the family homestead

from infection. It was a sad ending for a

Lynn Williams'

Family Anecdotes

A Fry relative of Lynn Williams was

The Returning Soldier

An Ovster Stew Secret

brave soldier.

When Lynn Williams was around 19, she worked the night shift at Dorsey's, Dayton's 24-hour restaurant. At two in the morning the town's bars closed. and several men would soon stumble into Dorsey's for the restaurant's "great Oyster stew." Lynn would pour a glass of milk and take it to the cook, who would add a bit of butter along with a few oysters, and heat it. The cook was not about to waste extra ingredients on inebriated customers.

Keeping Order

One night, a very inebriated man who had been sitting on a stool at the counter, slipped off and landed on the floor with a thud. Hearing the sound and wondering what had happened, Lynn turned around and looked over the counter to see the customer on the floor, passed out with his eyes wide open. She immediately called the deputy sheriff, who was her Grandpa Buck Payne. He responded along with his sidekick and cousin. Orville. The two officers picked the man up off the floor, and as they headed with him toward the door. Cousin Orville exclaimed to Lynn: "Call us when you get the next one ready!"

Dayton Title Company

1976: Bert Woolson & Terry Nealey

City Lumber & Coal Yard

200 North 3rd Street, Dayton, WA

1910: Established by G.A. Bergstrom 1917: Van Patton Lumber Co.

1946: Lonnie, Harley & Don Hatfield

1983: Don Hatfield 1989: Brad Hatfield

Suffield Furniture Company

362 East Main Street, Dayton, WA

1913: Founded by C.E. Suffield 1963: Cliff Suffield

1980: Al & Cliff Suffield

1985: Al & Carolyn Suffield

~ Here for Us ~

Through All These Years

338 East Main Street, Dayton, WA Established as W.E. Cahill Abstract Co.

1948: Bert Woolson

1984: Terry Nealey & Scott Marinella

2018: Scott Marinella &a Kimberly Boggs

2021: Kimberly Boggs & Ryan Ortuno

In Dayton's Pioneer Cemetery

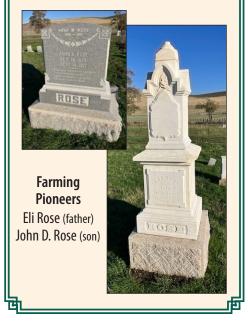
Off of Hiway 12, up on the hill, east of MP 365



Early Touchett Valley Settlers Samuel L. Gilbreath, Margaret H. Gilbreath, and infant daughter



Dayton's Founders Jesse Newberry Day & Elizabeth Forrest Day



continued from page 5

Back in 1877, C.J. Broughton's future wife arrived in Columbia County. Ina McCleary was eleven when she and her parents, James and March C. Graham McCleary, made the long, crosscountry journey to the West.

Blue Mountain Heritage Society • Fall 2023 Newsletter

They had traveled from Kansas by train to San Francisco, then by



Ina (McCleary) Broughton Ina McCleary became Mrs. C.J. Broughton on November 2, 1888.

steamer to Portland, up the Columbia River by boat to Wallula, and then on by rail to Walla Walla. When the McCleary family finally arrived in the Touchett Valley area from Walla Walla by stagecoach, they ended up renting a one-room log house with a sleeping loft in the Hogeye Valley.

A year later, the family moved to Dayton, which allowed Ina to attend public school. Ina's teacher at the two-room schoolhouse was Mrs. R.E. Peabody. Later, Ina attended the school on 3rd Street and then went on to Dayton High School for two years. Ina Broughton once said:

"This generation will never appreciate the advantages they have in education and all the modern inventions for work and leisure, that we of the 19th century, have seen developed."

Ina McCleary became Mrs. C.J. Broughton on November 2, 1888. She moved into a house she lived in her entire adult life. Mrs. C.J. Broughton died in 1962 at the age of 96.

Grant Low Family

A family that has been farming in the Columbia County area for over a century is the Grant Low family. They raised horses, cattle, mules, and grain in Covello, Starbuck, and Umapine.

On December 25, 1869, Grant Lowe (the "e" later being dropped) was born to Samuel and Dillie (Proctor) Lowe in North Carolina, where Samuel "conducted" a plantation. Young Grant acquired a limited common school education. When he was ten, his parents died within four weeks of each other. Placed with a guardian who required him to work for his board and clothes and seldom allowed him to attend school, Grant was unsatisfied with his treatment. At sixteen, he ran away to Missouri, where he worked as a farmhand for the next three years.

In July of 1889—with just five dollars to his name-Grant headed west to Dayton, Washington, where he earned wages as a farm laborer.



Grant Low (earlier spelled Lowe) Grain farmer, stock raiser, and Dayton businessman Dec 25, 1869 - Dec 10, 1940 (aged 70)

also arrived in Dayton to further the family connections in the area.

It wasn't just the Jensen family that helped to grow the population of Dayton. Clara (Warren) Johnson who was married to Andrew Johnson, encouraged her sister, Marie, to come to the area. Marie (Warren) Peterson settled in the Smith Hollow area as well. Clara's brother, Robert Warren, came to Washington Territory and settled in the Pomeroy area. Grandsons of Robert Warren include Warren Talbott, and Gene, Glen, and Bill Warren.

Dickinson Family

Another family lineage arrived when an architect and builder, W. T. Dickinson moved to Dayton from Galva, Illinois in 1898. His wife was Laura (Jackson) Dickinson, and they brought their son, Benton, along with his wife Lucy, and their six children to the area as well.

W.T. Dickinson opened a stationary business advertising his services as a mineralogist and assayer. His interest in mineral prospects on Cummings Creek was part of the appeal of coming to Dayton. W.T. Dickinson joined with his wife's brothers R.A. Jackson and Frank Jackson to establish the Jackson Brothers Mining Company. Benton Dickinson sought out land and sheep to purchase and settled in the Starbuck area.

Two of the six Dickinson children remained in the area. Maud married an accountant from the Spokane area named Arthur Trudgeon.

William Dickinson married Jennie Johnson in the same Congregational Church where her parents, Andrew and Clara (Warren) Johnson had been married. The young couple settled into a small ranch house near Starbuck and had two children: Clara Lucy in 1915 and Benton "Ben" Lombard in 1917. The marriage, however, faced some hard times, as William Dickinson was known to be a fun-loving man with a taste for pool hall activities. When the children were still in elementary school, William faced both financial and marital problems. He left his wife, telling her he would get settled somewhere else and send for her and the children. That was the last the family heard of him until

they received news of his death in in the European Theater of Operation. 1931 in Cody, Wyoming.

Jennie had to support her children, home to Starbuck faithfully. The and she gained employment at the letters talked about his day-to-day Chris List Saloon and Café, took in sewing, and did other jobs. Her family helped by providing a home for her and the children. Grandpa Dickinson and other area men taught young

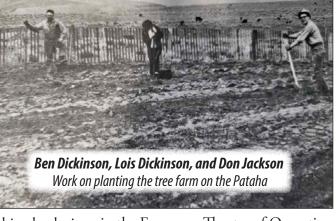


Clara (Warren) Johnson

Wife of Andrew Johnson and sister of Robert Warren

Ben Dickinson to farm. Jennie later married Joe Zink in Starbuck and had another son, Joseph Andrew.

Ben Dickinson worked for local farmers and the Union Pacific Railroad until he enlisted in the Infantry at the beginning of WWII. He was sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky, to attend the Officer's Candidate School. He became a tank commander and served



During the time he served, Ben wrote activities in the war, and always asked

Families Who Forged the Way

The history of an area is established by the people who choose to live there. An eclectic mix of individuals from other countries, other territories, and other states formed the foundation for the Columbia County we are today.

In this newsletter, we focus on a few of our area's early settlers. These men and women came to the area, appreciated its beauty, envisioned their future, and chose to stay.

The featured pioneers are just a sampling of Blue Mountain Heritage Society's extensive archive of Columbia County family histories. This collection is available for viewing at the Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse in Dayton. A searchable digital version is available online.

- Visit the Website -**Blue Mountain Heritage Society**



bluemountainheritage.org

for news from home. The letters are available to read in their entirety in the Veteran's Memorial Display at the Palus Museum, in Dayton.

Upon returning from the war, Ben worked for Allen Sprout, who helped Ben get a few head of cattle. In 1948, Ben married Susan Emily Harris. Susan had arrived from Naples, Idaho, to teach at the Starbuck School. Ben saved up his pay from the army and bought mountain pasture ground on Eckler Mountain in 1951.

In time, his Aunt Maud and Uncle Arthur Trudgeon gave Ben the opportunity to custom farm the land his father had farmed forty years prior.

The George Jackson family joined Ben Dickinson in 1967 for a new venture together in farming. They endeavored to make a grain farm out of the Jackson station cattle ranch. Ben farmed the virgin soil between the Pataha and the Snake River in true pioneer fashion.

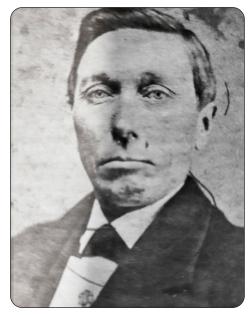
Ben spent the rest of his life running the Bar Z Ranch, Inc. He died in March of 1988, the last male to bear the Dickinson surname.

Ben and Sue Dickinson had four daughters. Zena Marie, Dallas Emily, Lois Louise, and Jennie Sue were all born in Dayton and graduated from local schools and state colleges. Dallas Dickinson and her husband Mike McOuary and Jennie Dickinson and her spouse Jay Ball returned to the Dayton area and continue to contribute to the community!

A Broughton Arrives

The first Broughton to arrive in southeastern Washington Territory was a teenage boy brought from Maryland in 1872 by his uncle.

C.F. Buck, who was referred to as "Uncle Buc" or "Buc," traveled west on the Isthmus of Panama in 1860 and spent a few years in California before arriving at the Walla Walla Valley. In 1866, he began operating a pack train on the Oregon Trail from Umatilla to



Blue Mountain Heritage Society • Fall 2023 Newsletter

"Uncle Buc." C.F. Buck Managed a Broughton ranch on the Patit until 1907.

Boise. In 1872, Buc made a trip back to Maryland to see his sister, Harriet Buck Broughton. When Buc returned to the West, he brought his nephew Charles Julius "C.J." Broughton along with him.

Young C.J. worked as a cook on the pack trail between Missoula and Wallula. The route ran up the Walla Walla River to the Touchet River, then on to Prescott and the Whetstone, crossing the Snake River at Lyon's Ferry. The job paid \$40 per month and landed him in a position to operate Buc and Albert Cave's store in Forest City, located near current-day Superior, Montana.

After several years, Uncle Buc purchased a ranch near Prescott and worked diligently to save up \$60,000, which was a fortune at the time.

The money was gone by 1884 due to loans to friends during the hard times that befell the area. Buc remained in the area and was fondly remembered by Charles Julius Broughton, Jr, Buc's great-nephew. As a young boy, the great-nephew would visit Uncle Buc, who remained a bachelor throughout his life. After staying with Uncle Buc, the boy's mother would make him take his clothes off on the back porch to ensure he did not bring home bedbugs.

In 1902, Buc moved to Dayton and managed one of Broughton's ranches on the Patit until 1907, when he returned to California. Shortly thereafter, his health failed. In 1908, C.F. "Buc" Buck died.

As a packer, C.F. Buck maintained a journal that chronicled the day-today life of a packer. Excerpts starting in January 1866 include these entries:

- •Have commenced repairing my apparahoes (riggings)
- Making new halters out of rope.
- Bought two new mules from Kassouth...later one of the mules ran home again.
- On March 3: "The Indians ran off with 25 mules last night."
- The next day, Buck notes that he "ran after the Indians all day.

Often the journal entries were about the mules—noting when one ran off, or when a mule drowned. Purchases of pack animals were noted with a horse being purchased for \$35 and 6 mules purchased for \$750

C.J. Broughton was born in 1854 and was 17 years of age when he came to the Washington Territory with his Uncle Buc in 1872.

Six years later, C.J. was planning a trip to visit his family back in Maryland. He had organized his trip, with the idea to go first to Umatilla, then to Portland by boat, and on to San Francisco by steamer then east on the train. His employer, Albert Cave, asked him to stop in Walla Walla and visit a man named Sid Schwabacher.

Sid was one of the San Francisco Schwabacher Brothers who had general merchandise stores in Walla Walla, Dayton, and Colfax. The Walla Walla store was later known as Gardiners. The Davton location was known as McDonald & Schwabacher. Mr. Schwabacher told C.J. the Dayton store needed a clerk. So, C.J. Broughton put off his plans to travel to Maryland and moved instead to Dayton to work for Alexander McDonald at the McDonald & Schwabacher, store.

CARRIED . 1875 **Columbia County Established** وستولين والمائية

Blue Mountain Heritage Society recently received a donation of a book titled Historic Sketches of Walla Walla, Whitman, Columbia, and Garfield Counties, The Frank T. Gilbert book was published in 1882. While much of the information has been seen in other pieces of local history, it was great to see it in the original context, and exactly as printed some 140 years ago.

Columbia County is rich in local history, but it was interesting to see that at the time the book was compiled, our county was very new. It was noted, "The history of Columbia as a county covers a period of but seven years, though its annals as an important fraction of Walla Walla County embraces more than a quarter of a century."

Recorded occupation of what would become Columbia County initiated in 1859. Land claims along the local rivers were staked, and cabins were constructed.

Frederick Schneble filed a land claim where Dayton is now located, and many others were also filed in 1859. Claims were recorded for John C. Wells. Thomas T. David, Jesse N. Day, S. L Gilbreath, George Pollard, John Mustard, and several more.

In the following years, ground along the local streams and rivers was increasingly occupied, cultivated, and developed. The lower grounds, being flatter, were conducive to farming. The steep higher grounds were not considered worth cultivating. But they did serve well for grazing. Over time, the settlers were showing success with farming, which brought more people to the area. More homes were built, trees were planted, and communities started to form

Dayton was established in 1872. It was considered to be a busy and prosperous hub in the area. At this time, the area was still a part of Walla Walla County. However, it was not convenient for local citizens to travel to Walla Walla for county-related business.

Legislation was introduced to separate the area away from Walla Walla County. The original

submission was to name the new county Ping County after Elisha Ping, who was elected to the Territoria Council in 1874. The Governor did not agree to the plan and vetoed the submission. With revisions, another proposal was introduced, and the new county received its name. The Governor approved the formation of Columbia County in 1875.

Soon after, formation of the county government took place, starting with the formation of precincts and polling locations. The original polling locations were scattered throughout the county. They appear listed as follows:

• Independent: Polls at Dayton.

• Patit: Log school-house near A. Walker's.

• Tukannon: Platter school-house.

• Calloway: Central school-house.

• Pataha: J.M. Pomeroy's.

• Hassotin (Assotin):Usual voting place.

• Touchet: Washington school-house.

The first election, which cost \$342.10, took place in December 1875. The following positions were elected:

• Sheriff: S.L. Gilbreath

• Auditor: A.J. Cain

• Treasurer: D. C. Guernsey

• Assessor: R.F. Walker

• Probate Judge: Tie Vote between Willam Avers and R.F. Sturdevant, so the office was declared vacant

• School Superintendent: T.S. Leonard

• Surveyor: William Ewing

• Coroner: W.W. Dav

• County Commissioners: Joseph Harris.

E. McDonnell, and H.B. Bateman

The pursuit of being chosen as the county seat became competitive. Dayton clearly wanted to be the county seat but was not centrally located in the county (which, at that time, stretched to the Idaho border) The Marengo community on the Tucannon vied for the role. Marengo was an up-and-coming community with lots of promise but not yet fully developed. Dayton, on the other hand, was already fairly established with more businesses, including a newspaper. Dayton won the County Seat title.

Resource: Historic Sketches Walla Walla, Whitman, Columbia, and Garfield Counties, 1882 by Frank T. Gilbert

For ten years, C.J. worked as a clerk by day and the store's bookkeeper at night. In 1887, he purchased half interest in the store. The business operated as Schwabacher & Broughton for the next 13 years. Eventually, C.J. bought out his partner and ran the store for five more years before selling all the inventory but retaining ownership of the building.

In November 1888, to fill the vacant position, C.J. Broughton was appointed Columbia County Treasurer. That same month, he also married Ina McCleary. They had eleven children.

In 1901, Broughton Bank was organized, with C.J. Broughton as president. Mr. Broughton was a good businessman with farm holdings of 7,000 and 8,000 acres. He also owned several pieces of real estate along Dayton's Main Street.

C.J. Broughton died in May 1920. He was considered "accommodating in business transactions, but he was such a home lover that he preferred to be there rather than any other place after business hours." continued on page 6



Schwabacher & Broughton Ad Columbia Twice-A-Week Chronicle, 12 Feb 1887