

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society is a group of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the history of the area just north of Spokane, Washington. The Society collects oral, literary, and pictorial history to publish and otherwise make accessible to the public.

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society meets on the second Saturday of each month at 9 AM. We gather at the Clayton Drive-In, located just off Highway 395 on Railroad Ave.

THE

CLAYTON/DEER PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mortarboard

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THE EASTERN WASHINGTON INDIAN WAR PETER COFFIN

ORIGIN OF THE CONTROVERSEY

In 1854 Territorial Governor Stevens began efforts to establish treaties with the Indians in Washington State and move them to reservations. The first of these treaties was the Medicine Creek Treaty signed on December 26 with the upper Puget Sound Indians. The terms of this treaty required the Indians to surrender their lands except the reservations. In return they were guaranteed fishing rights and annuities and were promised schools. The Indians also agreed to keep the peace and release their slaves.

In 1855 Governor Stevens began to get southeastern Washington Indian tribes to agree to similar treaties. In the first Walla Walla Council about 6000 Nez Perce, Walla Walla, Cayuse, and some Yakima Indians assembled to consider the treaty issue. At this time a plot to attack the Dalles garrison had been planned by Peu-Peu-Mox-Mox of the Walla Wallas, Young Chief of the Cayuse and Kamiakin of the Yakimas. However, within three weeks three treaties were signed in which the Indians gave up over 60,000 square miles of territory.

Governor Stevens then went to the Rocky Mountains to make similar agreement with the Pend

O'reilles, Flatheads and Kootenai. Hostilities prevented the United States Senate from ratifying all the treaties but one.

HOSTILITIES BEGIN

Hostilities began with the Yakimas. Beyond reluctance to give up their lands, they objected to whites moving onto the lands before the treaties were ratified. The Yakima had killed several Puget Sound men crossing the Cascades to go to the gold discovery in the Colville area. Andrew J. Bolon, Special Agent for the Yakima at The Dales was killed after conferring with their Chief Kamiakin.

As Governor Stevens was in the Rockies, Acting Governor Charles H. Mason sent out a call for federal troops and a reconnaissance campaign by Major Haller was attacked by an Indian force which killed five soldiers and wounded seventeen. A major campaign was organized but came to a halt with the onset of winter. Hostilities extended into the Puget Sound with an attack in late September 1855 on the White River and on October 8th nine persons were massacred.

General John Ellis Wool was Commander of the Department of the Pacific in 1856 and felt that the

Free — Take One

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settlers had caused the problems with the Indians and that Governor Stevens' treaties failed to protect the Indians from abuse and exploitation. Wool was replaced by Brigadier General Newman S. Clark who declared that Wool had been too easy on the Indians and that the war against the Indians in the eastern Washington Territory began. Colonel George Wright commanded the Washington Territory garrison and in March 1856 he had ordered it into the field to aid local Washington militias in the Yakima war.

THE STEPTOE EXPEDITION



Figure 1: Red (darker) line is the route Lieutenant Colonel Steptoe took north to near the town of Four Lakes. His retreat route is shown in the green line. The Steptoe Battlefield is marked on the south side of Rosalia. *(Rand McNally Washington State Map of 1995)*

On May 6, 1858 Lieutenant Colonel Steptoe left Walla Walla to go north and investigate Indian harassment of settlers and trouble at Colville. He had a force of 158 men with two mounted howitzers. These soldiers were inadequately armed with old muskatoons that could only shoot accurately as far as a man could throw a rock, revolvers, and only about 40 rounds of ammunition per man.

On May 15, 1858 Steptoe's column approached the Rosalia area and the next day near the present town of Four Lakes was confronted by an Indian force of over 600 mounted Indians composed of Palouse, Coeur d'Alene, and Spokane. In discussions with the Indians, Steptoe agreed to withdraw back towards Walla Walla. At 3 AM on May 17, 1858, Lieutenant Colonel Steptoe began the withdrawal back towards Walla Walla. The Indians tried surrounding the retreating troops and began to fire at the soldiers.

After a desperate running fight in retreat Steptoe



Figure 2: Steptoe Battle Field monument on the southeast side of the town of Rosalia. *(P. Coffin photograph 2012)*

took up a defensive position on a hill just southeast of present day Rosalia. As the Indians rarely attacked after nightfall Steptoe's command decided to a nighttime forced march towards the Snake River. The soldiers buried their howitzers, tied the

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badly wounded to their horses, left the dead unburied and escaped. According to Steptoe's report two men had been killed, two were mortally wounded six severely wounded, seven slightly wounded and one missing.

THE BATTLE OF FOUR LAKES

A plan to crush the Indian resistance was devised and in August 1858, Colonel George Wright's force of about 700 men accompanied with 6 companies of artillery, two twelve pounder howitzers and two six pounder guns move north along Steptoe's route to demand the Indians end their hostilities. By September 1, 1858, the command was located on a ridge overlooking the present town of Four Lakes area where the plains

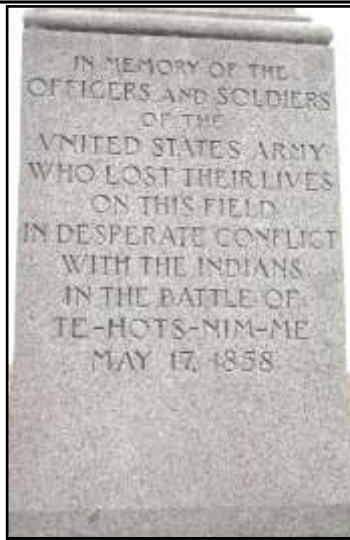


Figure 3: North side inscription on the Steptoe Battle Field monument. (P. Coffin photograph 2012)



Figure 4: Map showing the routes taken by Colonel George Wright. The red line follows approximately Colonel Steptoe's route to near Four Lakes. From there the route crosses the Spokane Plains to the north and then eastward along the Spokane River.



Figure 5: The Battle of Four Lakes monument in the town of Four Lakes west of the old Spokane-Pullman highway. The Indians were chased from the hills in the background. (P. Coffin photograph 2012)

were alive with the Indians, they had marched to subdue. The soldiers were armed with rifles that had considerable more range than the muskets with which Steptoe's men had been armed and advanced towards the Indians. The range of the rifles took its toll on the Indians who retreated to the north carrying their considerable number of dead and

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wounded. In this battle Colonel Wright's troops had not sustained an injured soldier nor lost an animal but one horse was slightly injured.

THE BATTLE OF SPOKANE PLAINS

After resting for three days, Wright again set his command moving northward toward the Spokane River where scouts had seen the Indians gathering. The Indians had set the prairie grass on fire in an attempt to slow the soldiers' advance and then attacked. The soldiers began driving the



Figure 7: Inscription on the Battle of Spokane Plains monument. (P. Coffin photograph 2012)



Figure 6: The Battle of Spokane Plains monument just west of the Fairchild Air Force Base entry gate on United States Highway Number 2. (P. Coffin photograph 2012)

Indians from behind trees and rocks, and from ravines on the prairie until most of the Indians were forced onto the "Spokane Plain" near present day Fairchild Air force Base.

From this plain a running battle developed with the soldiers chasing the Indians for about fourteen

miles to a point about six miles below the Spokane Falls where the soldiers camped after the Indian defeat.

THE HORSE MASSACRE

On September 8, 1858, Colonel Wright moved several miles up the Spokane River and captured about 800 horses belonging to the Palouse Indians. Most of these wild horses were shot to deprive the Indians of the ability to make war

and because they could not be taken care of by the soldiers. This site is just north of the present day Washington State Patrol's weigh station just west of the Washington-Idaho state line. The horse bones bleached the area white for many years after 1858

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Figure 8: The horse massacre monument on the south bank of the Spokane River west of the Washington-Idaho state line. (P. Coffin photograph 2012)

and horse bones were recovered when a hole was dug for the monument footing .

HANGINGS

After the Indians were defeated Colonel Wright concentrated on capturing the Indians responsible for killing the miners and settlers. On September 23, 1858, a council was held with the Spokane and Chief Owhi attended. He was seized and put in irons. The next day Qwalchan rode into Wright's

camp on the promise he would not be hanged. Wright seized him and promptly hung him!

On the evening of September 24, 1858, fifteen members of the Palouse tribe were seized near the Palouse River and six were promptly hung giving the stream upon which the command was camped "Hangman Creek" (now Latah Creek). A few days later Owhi was shot and killed as he attempted to



Figure 9: The monument marking the hanging of the Indians on the banks of "Hangman Creek" or Latah Creek. The hanging spot is indicated to be about 1000 feet southwest of the monument on the banks of the creek where the troops camped. (P. Coffin photograph 2012)

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escape south of the Snake River as the command was returning to Fort Walla Walla.

END OF THE WAR

On September 30, 1858, Colonel Wright reported that the war had ended. A vigorous campaign of just thirty days duration had forced the Indians to give up the murderers and retreat to the reservations they had agreed to in the Stevens treaties they had signed.

REFERENCES

Snowden, C. A., 1909, History of Washington; The Rise and Progress of an American State; New York, New York, John C. Raskin Company, V. 4, 467 p.



A MILAN PIONEER INTERVIEW

The following article was printed on the front page of the May 31, 1956 issue of the Tri-County Tribune. At that time Bill Cox was the Editor of the paper and may have been the interviewer.

This paper had the honor of interviewing C. E. Burch of Deer Park whose father homesteaded in the Milan area in 1886. We'd like our readers to take a little trip into the past and we would be very pleased to be able to get other stories from the "true pioneers" of this Tri-County Area.

"On May 2, 1885, we left Nebraska by mule team and covered wagon. Our trip took us through Deadwood City, Dakota and over the Oregon Trail. We laid over in Dakota for three weeks to wait for another wagon of relatives to join us. Our Nebraska friends were amazed that we didn't want to travel with a wagon train, as they termed the Indians as being a great peril to all wagon travelers. As it was, we saw the first Indians of the trip near WallaWalla, they were friendly and paid no attention to us."

"We arrived at Paradise Prairie near Cheney Sept. 17, just three days after I was eight years old. Of the 10 children in the family only five of us made the trip from Nebraska. We lived on the prairie for a year. Cheney was the county seat at that time and I remember clearly the fracas between Spokane and Cheney. This entire country was a

territory at the time as statehood was not granted until 1889," Burch continued.

When asked if he remembered Spokane, Burch said, "When we first saw Spokane it was a very small place with a population about 1000. The only industry was Brickers water powered sawmill on the river. Shacks bordered the river and the road and the only house north of the river belonged to a homesteader who had a home in the vicinity of Hillyard. One bridge spanned the Spokane river and there was no railroad north of Spokane. I think the big fire was the best thing that happened to Spokane as it was a very cluttered looking place with shacks and lean-tos. In rebuilding, the structures were of a permanent type and most of the shacks were non-existent."

In 1886, The Burch family homestead near Riverside high on the property now known as the Ware place. There were no towns north of Spokane, in this vicinity, at this time, and only a few homesteaders. In 1888 homesteaders started pouring into the area in great numbers and by 1900, it was pretty much settled. The Owens homesteaded in 1886, the same year as the Burches, and with other settlers, the families worked to get a school
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going, and encouraged people with families to settle here so that a school could be realized. The first school was opened in 1887 at Chattaroy, and Mr. Burch remembers walking the four miles to school. School ran for three months during the summer, it was later extended to six months during the spring and summer and continued that way until the school districts were formed.

The first railroad was built north of Spokane in 1889, and Milan and Kidd Post offices were established soon after that. "Milan in its heyday had about 600 residents, three saloons, two stores and a feed store," Burch stated. "Most of the residents were loggers, and if I remember correctly, Milan got its name from the foreman of one of those lumbering units whose name was Milan." The Kidd Post office was changed to the name of Chattaroy in the early days.

In the late 1800's sawmills sprang up in the area, and the first industry other than lumbering to come in here was the Arcadia orchards, although some of the homesteaders kept animals and grew alfalfa. The early settlers were convinced that once the timber was cut the land would be worthless. Virgin stands of white pine and yellow pine were beautiful, there was no underbrush and the bottom limbs of the trees started several yards above the ground. One could drive a team through the woods without any road to follow. "Prices were very stable, there wasn't much money but you always knew how much to expect for your products and how much groceries and other staples were going to cost from one year to the next; grocery stores and feed stores owners would paint the prices of flour, or feed on the outside of their stores as well they could, as the price didn't change from one year to another. Flour cost 50c for 49 pounds for years," Burch reminisced.

"A cavalry unit was stationed at Chattaroy one fall and they had put in their winter supply of foodstuff when they had a call to go into southern Idaho to settle an Indian uprising. Rather than packing their food they sold it to the homesteaders.

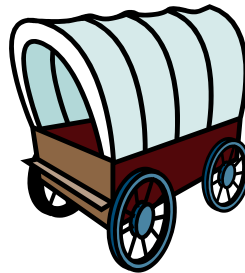
I remember my dad bought 100 pounds of navy beans for \$1.50 and that is what we had to eat that winter."

"The names of many places have changed over the years, Mt. Spokane used to be called Mt. Baldy; Eloika was known as Blake's lake; Sacheen was Rocky Ford; and Bear lake was called Koosta."

When asked what he missed most, Burch stated, "There was a community closeness in those early days that doesn't exist now. People pitched in to help all their neighbors with never a thought of reimbursement, and when someone was ill or there was a death, we considered it our duty to help. There were many building bees, especially to help a new family get started or help someone who had burned out."

The greatest change has occurred in this area since 1940," Burch said. "There are better wages, lots of people moving in and dairying had gotten to be a stable industry. Pulp wood, which would have been burned when I was a boy can now be sold and people just live a lot better than they used to."

Burch worked all his life, until his retirement, in lumbering in Idaho, Montana and Washington. He always called Milan his home, though, as that's



where he spent most of his life. He has one son who is married and lives in Pocatello, Idaho; two grandsons and one great-grandson. Two sisters, Mrs. Ella Pratt and Mrs. Sadie Eaton

live in Spokane. One brother has been a guard at state prison at Walla Walla for the past 15 years, another living brother has been out of contact with the rest of the family for the past few years.

In summing it up, Burch stated, "It's fun to recall the old days, but I wouldn't want things to revert back to what they were then. It was a pretty rugged life and things are a lot easier for everyone now."

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE CLAYTON DRIVE-IN

The Clayton Deer Park Historical Society is thankful for Taffy and Randy Long. They have been good to us for many years. Besides hosting our monthly meetings they have provided a place for our Terra Cotta Eagle. The Eagle has a place of honor only a short distance from where it was manufactured at the Clayton Terra Cotta Factory.



Grace Hubal, our Secretary, chose and picked up a beautiful Thanksgiving flower arrangement from Gardenspot Market in Deer Park. She delivered the arrangement to the Longs to show our appreciation for all they have done for us.

This item is carried over from our December issue *Editor*

LOUIS OLSON, JR.

EDITORS NOTE:

This is one of a series of articles about people of the Deer Park district. It is published to better acquaint you with those who help to make Deer Park.

For the first time in this column we bring you a short biography of a man who can properly be termed a native son of Deer Park. A man who was born in the district, helped build the town, and now, as one of its outstanding citizens conducts his business here.

Louis Olson, Jr. was born September 13, 1891 on a farm a few miles northwest of Deer Park. Earl P. Jones now raises dairy cattle on this place and the old Olson house is still standing. His mother was Norwegian and his father was Swedish, and they were among the pioneer settlers of this section. His uncle, named Dahl, was the first Scandinavian settler in Spokane County.

As one of twelve children, he received his schooling in a log school house known as the Old Forrester School. This building is now used as a kitchen on the Ole Pederson ranch.

As a lad, young Louis, had little liking for the farming and wood shipping business of his father, so in 1908 he came to Deer Park and got a job on the construction of the hotel building his father was having erected on Main and Crawford. This is where he learned the fundamentals of carpentry. John Wood, a pioneer carpenter of the district, told him the first thing a good carpenter had to know was to keep his saw sharp. So young Olson started by sharpening his own saw. Wood also taught him to make window frames, and most of those in the building were cut and

planed out of the rough lumber by Louis Olson. He also put in all of the trim and wood work in the top floor of the hotel. This job he did alone.

After following that business for some time he went to work for the Artificial Stone Company who manufactured concrete blocks and pipe, and did construction work. Louis was in charge of this firm's construction projects until the war. He supervised the laying of most of the concrete pipe etc. for the Arcadia Company.

After joining the army, he was given a course in aviation construction, and during the year he spent in France with the A. E. F. he put in his time building Aviation Service Stations.

After the Armistice Olson returned to Deer Park and his old job until 1922 when he opened a small general contracting and construction office in one corner of the building he now occupies. This was then the Arcadia Company's office. He followed this business for about five years during which time he built homes for all of the Arcadia officials, in fact a good share of the homes in Deer Park. He also built some of the newer buildings on Main Street, such as the Coast-Inn Service and the buildings for George Warner's Shell Station.

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1927 was a banner year in Louis Olson's life. It was then that he built the home he lives in, added a stock of building supply materials to his business and married Minnie Eaton. The young people were married in Portland, Oregon, on Thanksgiving November 25, at the same time his parents were celebrating their golden wedding anniversary with a big party in the Hotel here.

On returning from their honeymoon the Olsons went into business together and in earnest. In 1928 they added a line of plumbing and in 1930 took on electrical supplies and appliances.

In addition to business Louis Olson has found time to contribute his bit to the civic and social life of the community. He served as water commissioner on the city council for two years, and it was during this term that the

last rate reduction was made, and that all users were required to install water meters. He is an active member of the Masonic lodge, belonging to the Knight Templers and the Shrine and in 1936 he served as Worshipful Master of Lodge 134. He is also a charter member of the V. F. W. and the Lutheran Church.

He doesn't fish or hunt, and claims to have no bad habits. His only hobby is lathe work and carving. While relaxing he likes to turn out forks, spoons, nut bowls, lamps, etc. He claims that his big ambition is to someday get caught up with his work so that he can sit down and actually rest for a while.

(This article was published on the front page of the May 11, 1939, Deer Park Union under the column name "Who's Who In Our District". The writer of this column is not named.)

Deer Park Winterfest

Clayton Deer Park Historical Society will participate, Saturday, Jan. 26, in the Deer Park Winterfest at the Deer Park Community Center (the old gymnasium). We will have a 10' wide space west of the kitchen opening. Pete Coffin and Bill Sebright are studying what we will be able to put in this space. We'll be able to set up as early as 7 AM. Penny Hutton and Sharon Clark have volunteered to man the booth. Other volunteers desired.

Stevens County Celebrates Its 150th Anniversary on January 20.

To the Heritage Network. (Portion of e-mail dated 12/13/12 extracted)

In the Spokane County Commissioner Minutes, November 20th, 1863, Book A, page 33, the commissioners requested the Dr. Tobey, the representative to the legislature, request a tax on Chinamen and to attach Stevens County to Spokane County, because the citizens have failed to organize. As we all know, on January 19th, 1864, Spokane County

was dissolved and merged into Stevens County. Of interest, the county seat was identified as Colville and not Pinkney City in the law passed by the Washington Territorial legislature. On May 2nd, 1864, the first meeting of the newly enlarged Stevens County Board of County Commissioners met at Pinkney City and the same commissioners that were commissioners in 1863 were listed and the topics were just a continuation of prior discussions. They were Chairman John Hofstetter, Thomas Stensgar, and Robert Bruce. Basically, the only change was the name of the county. (See "Evolution of Spokane County" Mortarboard # 53) —Malcolm Friedman asked me on Monday, if we were coming up to the 150th anniversary. I have sent the formation date onto the commissioners, so they are aware of it. It would be nice to have a logo all of us can use to promote the 150th anniversary. Don't know if they will come up with one or not. Sue Richart

Clayton/ Deer Park Historical Society Minutes — December 8, 2012

In attendance: Mary Jo Reiter, Don Reiter, Mike Reiter, Mark Wagner, Bill Sebright, Sharon Clark, Marilyn Reilly, Penny Hutten, Warren Nord, Lynn Fackenthal Wells, Ralph Allen, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Allan Fackenthal, Grace Hubal, Ella Jenkins, and Lonnie Jenkins.

Society President, Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. He reported: 1) Pete will be the Westerners' speaker for February. He will be presenting a program on the Arcadia Orchards. 2) He received a call from Penny Bossom of Coos Bay, Oregon. Penny and her family lived in the Clayton/Deer Park area. She is related to the Edgingtons and Ransom Abbott. She plans to send pictures, a 1915 ledger, as well as other family items to the CDPHS. 3) Our thanks go out to Jeff Lilly for his great article on Warren Nord's Honor Flight trip to Washington, D. C. It appeared in the Deer Park Gazette. 4) Everyone who hasn't paid dues, they are due by January 1, 2013. 5) We received a Christmas card from Knight Construction. 6) He went to Mae Huffman Fischbach's 100th birthday celebration at the Davenport Hotel.

Treasurer, Mark Wagner reported that there is \$3,861.48 in the main checking account. Deposits: \$97.00. Maintenance Web hosting account had \$173.76 in funds with a \$10.95 in activity monthly hosting fee. (Since the main checking account is above \$3,000 there is no service charge from the bank).

Grace Hubal, Secretary reported: 1)The Society surprised Taffy and Randy Long with a beautiful Thanksgiving flower arrangement for their generosity in allowing us to use their restaurant for our monthly meetings and for all the many wonderful things they have done for us throughout the years. 2) We also gave Christmas poinsettias to Michelle at the Pizza Shoppe, John and Virginia at Odynski's Accounting, and Taffy and Randy at the Clayton Drive-In to show our appreciation for supporting our Society. 3) She passed out the Society phone tree.

Vice President, Pete Coffin reported that he: 1) Has completed a review of the 1911-1925 digital Deer Park Union and copied all the material on the Arcadia Orchard into a pair of three ring binders. This might be of use if KSPS decides to make an hour long documentary of the Arcadia Orchards Company. 2) Took a field trip to all the Spokane area 1858 Indian War monuments, took pictures of them and have prepared a short paper describing the war that is illustrated with maps and pictures. 3) During the Deer Park Drag Race Reunion last September I asked about getting copies of the historical material on display at a trailer near the entrance. About three weeks ago, I received a three ring binder filled with historical clippings, manuscripts, and DVDs describing racing at the Deer Park airstrip. Mr. Greg Fury was the compiler/historian and donated the book to the Society in hopes of a paper being produced from the material.

Print Editor, Sharon Clark: 1) The December 2012 Mortarboard #56 was distributed. There are articles on Arcadia Orchards and irrigation water, Mae Huffman Fischbach's 100th birthday party, and Warren Nord's Honor Flight trip.

Website Director, Penny Hutten reported: 1) The number of visitors to the website in the month of November was 4513. 2) The website had four new pages added: A- The Bob Clouse Memorial page. B- The Warren Nord Honor Flight page. C- The list of all the DPHS annuals. D- Suzanne Keith's 1913 Album. 3) The latest Motarboards have been added. 4) The December Westerners' speaker will be John Ellingson, an Spokane historian. His topic will be "A Pioneer Tale of a Trail: the letters of Flora McCreary".

Having a booth at Winterfest was discussed. Pete and Mark have agreed to help set up at the Civic Center. It is Saturday, the 26th of January 2013. Penny and Sharon will man the booth.

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Mark will check with Nancy Berger at Standen Insurance about the Society insurance switch to Liberty Northwest.

Florene Moore was not present but she reported that a planning meeting for the Deer Park 50 Year Class Reunion for the Class of '63 has been held. The 100 Year All Class Reunion will be after the picnic at Settlers' Day next year, 2013. Contact

Florene, 276-7070 or moore3@ix.netcom.com, if you would like to help plan this event.

Next meeting: Saturday, January 12, 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM.

The meeting minutes submitted by Grace Hubal, Secretary.

Editorial Policy Regarding Correcting Errors and/or Omissions

Information published here is compiled from many sources, including personal memories. It is often difficult or impossible to verify such recollections through outside documentation. Our editorial policy toward the veracity of personal recollections tends toward the casual – since little harm is normally done by such errors. But our editorial process also invites public review and input regarding the accuracy of the information we publish, and when such review either suggests or reveals errors or items open to dispute our “Letters” department will act as a forum allowing the airing of such disagreements in an effort to ascertain the truth and correct any probable or demonstrated errors. We also believe it’s important that such disagreements be recorded, even if they can’t be settled to the satisfaction of all parties.

We encourage everyone to submit any arguments as to fact to the editor in writing — since the written form reduces the chance of further misunderstandings. As is standard policy, all letters will be edited for spelling, word usage, clarity, and — if necessary — contents. If advisable, the editor will confer directly with the letter writers to insure that everyone’s comments and corrections are submitted in a literate, polite, and compelling manner — as best suits the editorial image of this Society’s publications.

Society Want Ads

WANTED: Information and photos regarding the history of the Brickyard/Ramble In Tavern

WANTED: Any stories and photos of your family’s history in connection with their occupations and settlement in the Clayton/Deer Park Area

WANTED: Any stories and photos from Williams Valley #452 and Gardenspot Grange78 Contact: Ann Fackenthall, WVG

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Visit our New Web Site: cdphs.org

Special Thanks to this month's volunteer proofreaders — Chuck Stewart, Bill Sebright