

The C♣DPHS is an association of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the history of our community. To the preservation of the region's oral history, literary history, social history, graphic and pictorial history, and our history as represented by the region's artifacts and structures. To the preservation of this history for future generations. To the art of making this common heritage accessible to the public. And to the act of collaborating with other individuals and organizations sharing similar goals.

The Clayton ♦ Deer Park Historical Society's

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

*Bits of Chatter, Trivia, and Notices
— all strung together.*

© C♣DPHS

Searching Vintage Newspapers

— and the like —

For Free!

— *With One Tiny (though aggravating) Glitch* —

— *by Wally Lee Parker* —

... hiding behind a paywall ...

As of this writing, it's still possible to access and search a large collection of vintage newspapers without charge. Said access was first offered online by Google as of 2008. Any further expansion of the number of newspapers included ended in 2011 — with some diminishing of said collection since. One might assume that the unexpected popularity of Google's free access indicated to the profit-minded an unexpectedly large market for the data found in the world's wealth of historic newsprint. As a result, there has been a tendency to close once free access to newspaper and magazine morgues in lieu of payment — which is to say, to cloister them behind a paywall.

Regarding the above noted tendency, I once watched an online interview with a gentleman named Bill Gates — as in Microsoft. Gates

was promoting a new investment model. He and a klatch of accomplices had formed a company to buy all the photographic images held in the morgues of dying or otherwise financially strapped newspapers and magazines. People would be allowed to rent these images. A bunch of universities, museums, and the like already do something similar with their collections. Said rent comes with a lot of restrictions — time limits and so forth. Though a portion of the cloistered materials are already in the public domain, said restrictions are enforced by the ability of these various organizations to bring a lot of high-priced legal pressure to bear.

... tapping into Google ...

Returning to Google, if you open their website and type “*Google News Archive Search*” into the search bar, the first item drawn up

Further Reading Regarding Loon Lake, Clayton, and Deer Park's Early Newspapers:

The Clayton News-Letter:

How a Society Member Obtained the Classic Clayton Newspaper's Entire Run for Our Image Archive.

— *by Wally Lee Parker* —

(and)

In Search of the Deer Park Union's First Editor.

— *by Wally Lee Parker* —

Mortarboard #113, September, 2017 — page 1537 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 32.

https://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_113_web__1_.pdf

should read the same as what you've typed. Tap to open, and you'll be at the top of a very long alphabetized list of newspapers. Strung horizontally across the very top of said page is the alphabet, each letter of said being an activated key that will take you to that portion of the list containing newspapers with titles beginning with that letter, or immediately after if the first word is "the" or a foreign language equivalent.

For example, if you're wondering whether they have any issues of Loon Lake's vintage newspaper on file, tap the letter "L." That'll take you to the beginning of the "L" listings, and if you scroll further down you will eventually find *The Loon Lake Times*.

... in some ways it's like a computer game ...

Put your computer's cursor directly over the newspaper's name and click. That will take you to a page showing a line of vertical columns, each column-head indicating a year and month. A series of thumbnail images of the first page of each weekly issue available for the selected month is shown down-column. At first it might seem a bit of a disappointment since a visual count of the thumbnails shown in all the columns indicate that there are only 37 four-page issues of the "*Loon Lake Times*" available — those sporadically scattered between June 16th, 1911 and December 27th, 1912. But it's a bit more complicated, with the number of issues preserved significantly more satisfying than the number 37 would suggest.

It reminds me of early computer games. Most contained secret nooks and crannies that players could either win access to by accumulating points or by accidentally stumbling over said hidden spaces when moving the computer's cursor. Of course, for some of those games you could buy a guidebook — a cheat book — that would give you lots of hints on how to navigate the game. When it comes exploring Google's cache of hidden *Loon Lake Times*, it's clear a few hints are in order — especially since serious researchers don't have time for games.

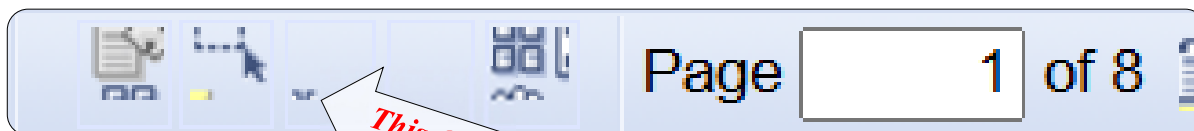
For example, if you drag the vertical columns across screen to the left, you'll eventually come to a column marked March, 1912. Scanning down that column you'll find four thumbnails. The thumbnails are dated March 1st, 8th, 22nd, and 29th. It's clear that the issue for March 15th is missing. But let's make sure. I

open the March 8th issue by clicking directly on the thumbnail. That takes me to a page showing the four pages of that issue disappearing off screen to the right. Just above the displayed pages is a horizontal line of active links. A snapshot of a portion of the horizontal line is displayed below. To the right side of this snapshot, you'll see a page indicator suggesting you're on page one of a total of eight pages. As far as currently known, the common number of pages in each issue of the *Loon Lake Times* is four. To find out, I use my cursor to drag the pages to the left. And sure enough, after four pages are swept to the left, there appears to be the front page of another four-page newspaper. The problem is all the pages are too small to allow reading normal size print. How does one solve that?

First, move your attention back to the horizontal band just above the newspapers. Moving left to right along that line you'll find a set of very small emoji like characters. The first character represents a page. Hover the cursor over that character and a box will appear saying "*Back to Article.*" Hover over the second character and a box indicating "*Zoom Out*" will appear. Hover over the very small, indistinct character — indicated by the arrow in the snapshot below — and a box stating "*Zoom In*" will appear. Click on that character and you'll find a much-magnified image of the newspaper will appear. When you move your cursor over the newspaper, the cursor will change into a hand with fingers spread. If you depress your mouse's left clicker and hold, the image's hand will close its fingers as if gripping. That allows you to drag the pages up and down, left and right, and from page to page.

Grip and drag until the second frontpage appears, and there, when sufficiently enlarged, you'll find that the data portion just below the newspaper's nameplate reads "*Loon Lake, Stevens County, Washington, Friday, March 15, 1912.*" So, even though the thumbnail only indicates four, Google really has all five issue of the March 1912 *Loon Lake Times* on file.

The vertical column just to the right of the one containing the March 1912 thumbnails is empty. Does that mean all the April issues for that year are missing? One way to find out is to open the last prior thumbnail — that for March 29th, 1912. Once in that newspaper, we can begin dragging pages off screen to the left. Doing so we'll uncover the entirety of the April 5th,



12th, 19th, and 26th issues. But then we can continue dragging to the left another eight pages — that exposing the May 3rd and May 10th issues. It stops at that point, but if we go back to the vertical columns, there, in the column for May 1912, we'll find the remaining issues — thumbnails for the May 17th and May 31st issue, with the May 24th issue folded in with May 17th.

As to why the *Loon Lake Times* and doubtless an unknown number of other newspapers in Google's collection are so quirky, it would be a safe bet to suggest that the people digitizing such had something to do with it.

The moral of this story is, whenever you're searching various databases and a certain issue of a newspaper appears to be missing — play around with things, just in case.

... *from when to when* ...

As noted, the first available issue of the *Loon Lake Times* on Google's platform is June 16th, 1911. There's a notation near the top of the paper stating this is "Vol. I, No. 32" of the newspaper's entire run. Since the early iterations of the weekly *Loon Lake Times* appear to have been published every Friday, counting back across 31 prior issues should take us to November 18th, 1910. That's likely correct since the December 29th, 1910 issue of the *Newport Miner* — Newport, Washington — confirms that "*Stevens County has a new paper, the Loon Lake Times.*"

The last issue Google states it has in its archive carries the date December 27th, 1912. Once you've opened that issue, you can continue scrolling to the right another 76 pages until you hit the last page of the May 3rd, 1913 issue. That, however, doesn't appear to be the final issue either — though it's the last Google appears to have in its database. The September 20th, 1913 edition of the *Colville Examiner* states, "*W. A. Lee has leased the Loon Lake Times and Clayton Critic from H. L. Moody and will conduct the papers.*" Beyond that date I've failed to find any suggestion that the *Loon Lake Times* continued in print — unless it continued under some other name.

As far as now known, the *Loon Lake Times*' nameplate as a functioning publication remained dormant until it resurfaced in 1986 in the form of a newsletter, and later as a more formal newspaper.

All this begs several questions, among them, what happened to the first 31 issues of the original newspaper? This is a phenomenon that appears quite common among these early smalltown papers. My speculation would be that

the editors and/or publishers took the morgue copies accumulated during their editorship with them when they moved on.

It seems something of the like may have occurred with the first half decade of the *Deer Park Union*. The first issue the CDPHS has in its digital files dates to Friday, July 7th, 1911. Just below the newspaper's nameplate, it's stated that this is "Vol. 6, No. 5," of the run. Working backward, that would place the newspaper's founding toward the beginning of June, 1906. That estimate is confirmed by an article printed in the Friday, June 15th, 1906 issue of the *Leavenworth Echo*, said paper out of Leavenworth, Washington. To quote, "*F. T. Sheppard, who started the Govan Argus some three months ago and afterwards sold it out, has started a new paper, the Deer Park Union, the first number of which we received this week.*"

In 1906, there were five Fridays in June. Assuming the *Deer Park Union* was printed on the same day of the week in the beginning as it was on the first issue we have on hand, the *Union's* premier issue would most likely have appeared on either the 2nd or 9th of June, 1906.

The first copy we have of the *Union*, the above noted July 7th, 1911 issue, is also the first issue released under the editorship of J. H. Johnson. He relinquished that title after the May 31st 1918 issue. In his case he forwarded the morgue accumulated during his time to his line of successors largely intact.

Backtracking a bit, in the previous quote from the *Colville Examiner's* September 20th, 1913 issue there's mention of a newspaper called the *Clayton Critic*. The Clayton part of the *Clayton Critic* clearly references Clayton, Washington. In its younger days Clayton had several newspapers, but you won't find any of them on Google's list of searchable PDFs. If you'd like to pursue the history of Clayton's early newspapers a bit more, check out the *Mortarboard's* September 2017 issue (vol. 113). We've provided an active link to such in the "Further Reading" box at the bottom of page 105.

... *the alluded to tiny glitch* ...

One of the drawbacks of Google's archive is that there's no way (as far as I know) to directly clip and paste articles from the newspapers. The only apparent way to copy specific articles to a page on your computer is through your keyboard's print-screen function. In other words, you'll have to enlarge the image on your computer's monitor until the print remains legible when captured by the print-screen function

and pasted onto a page in your computer. If the article requires more than one print-screen capture to gather the entirety, then you'll have to move the image around onscreen and extract it in pieces. After each capture you'll need to paste the image onto a page in a suitable computer program. Once you've gathered the entirety of your clipping on the new page or pages, you'll need to trim and reassemble them in some sensible manner.

As you grumble about how much work this is, just remember, you're getting something for free that would otherwise require either a single-article fee or the price of a monthly subscription to obtain.

... other places to look ...

Google's newspaper archive is just one nonmonetary research site currently available. But it seems most, if not all, of these free access points exhibit novelistic behaviors that require exploration and experimentation before they can be fully utilized. And each seems to possess a unique assortment of limitations. This is to suggest there's a learning curve associated with most. And, when in pursuit of a particular bit of data, it's best to rummage through more than one. Links to those mentioned here will be provided at the end of this article.

Besides newspaper and book search sites, I'll include a few other useful sites for research.

... *Chronicling America* ...

There's a website called *Chronicling America*. This is a research mecca "*sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.*" It allows you to search a large selection of national newspapers dating from September 1736 to December 1963. It's worthwhile to note that 1929 is currently the upper most year for materials published in the United States and its territories to be in the public domain, therefore free of copyright without reservation. The *Chronicling America* website stipulates "*that the newspapers in Chronicling America are in the public domain or have no known copyright restrictions. Newspapers published in the United States more than 95 years ago are in the public domain in their entirety. Any newspapers in Chronicling America that were published less than 95 years ago are also believed to be in the public domain but may contain some copyrighted third party materials.*"

On January 1st, 2025, all U. S. publica-

tions dated 1930 will also move into the public domain.

Chronicling America allows you to run newspaper searches across the entire country, or through individual states. It also allows users to bracket the specific years they want the site to search. This website is currently transitioning to a new format. After some learning, it appears the new website will be even more useful and responsive to the needs of researchers than the old.

... *the Internet Archive* ...

This site is similar to the Google Book Search site, but often provides nicer looking editions. To use it to its best advantage, signing in is recommended. Setting up what appears to be a free account doesn't look to be especially difficult, but doing so isn't necessary to access a good portion of the materials gathered by the site.

The link provided at the end of this article should open a page with a search bar across the top. Click inside the box and a list giving you five choices for the type of search you want to conduct appears below. For our purposes it's best to choose the second on the list — "*text*" — and then move back to the search bar.

As some readers may remember, in the first several decades of the 20th Century our region experienced an oil boom — at least in the speculative sense. One of the perpetrators of this excitement — essentially a scam — was a gentleman by the name of Professor Samuel Aughey. Among Professor Aughey's noteworthy observations was the discovery of vast pools of petroleum beneath Wild Rose Prairie. As an example of what's possible with the Internet Archive, typing "*Samuel Aughey*" (quotations included) into the search engine provides access to some 1,400 + books, pamphlets, and reports of various types that mention that name. If I type "*Samuel Aughey Spokane*" into the engine, I get one response. If I type "*Samuel Aughey*" and either outside the quotation marks or within quotation marks of its own the name "*Spokane*," I draw up 249 documents. That would suggest finetuning inquiries can narrow the nature of the returns Therefore, experimentation will be required when climbing the learning curve.

... *the University of Texas Map Collections* ...

Of particular interest in this collection is a set of vintage public domain topographical maps of Washington State. Unfortunately, not

all the areas of interest on the eastern side of the state are currently included — digitizing and uploading being an ongoing project. The university’s ultimate intent is to digitize and upload the entire United States Geological Survey’s collection of vintage topographic maps. On the pages presented — by pages I mean I’m including a link to Idaho’s vintage maps — there are links that will take viewers most anywhere within the University of Texas map project. These maps can be downloaded with good clarity, allowing clipping segments for enlarging. Publication dates for the maps range across the years, so if a town or community you’re familiar with is missing, it could be that it hadn’t yet come into existence when, or conversely had already passed out of existence before that particular version of the map was surveyed. You can check for the finalized date at the bottom of each map.

... *Washington State Digital Archives* ...

Washington State has placed a large quantity of documents online. One of the most useful to historians is a page that allows the researcher to enter a first and last name, and, in theory, records such as birth and death certificates and the like will be drawn up. Now if you’re looking for someone with a fairly com-

mon name, the returns are likely to be overwhelming. That said, there are mechanisms for narrowing down the scope of the searches — by time periods, for example. All that said, it’s another case of becoming familiar with the site.

... *find a grave* ...

This free website is currently owned by Ancestry.com. If you have at least a first and last name and some idea of place of death, it’s worth a try. The more basic information you can supply the search engine, the more likely you’ll uncover something useful. Instructing the search engine is fairly self-explanatory. If you do draw up data on the correct person, it should have the place of internment, the dates of birth and death, and if known, the place each occurred. And when relatives or volunteer researchers have supplied such to the website, quite possibly the same regarding parents, spouses, siblings, and children of the deceased. All such ancillary data is useful in confirming you have the right burial.

Quite often the data is incomplete, and sometimes even inaccurate. But, as long as due diligence is exercised and further research pursued to confirm, this site can prove very helpful in adding details to the stories being told.

Links to Online Sources Mentioned:

Google News Archive Search: <https://news.google.com/newspapers>

Chronicling America: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/search>

Washington Historical Topographic Maps: <https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/topo/washington/>

Idaho Historical Topographic Maps: <https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/topo/idaho/>

Washington State Digital Archives: <https://digitalarchives.wa.gov/>

Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/>

Society Contacts:

Mailing Address: C♦DPHS, Box 293, Clayton, WA 99110

Bill Sebright, President — sebrightba@gmail.com — (509) 276-2693

Wally Lee Parker, Editor of the Letters/Brickbats Newsletter — bogwen100@msn.com

Damon Smathers, Webmaster — damonsmathers@gmail.com

Website — <https://www.cdphs.org>

Facebook — Login to your Facebook account, then type

“Clayton & Deer Park Historical Society” into Facebook’s search engine.

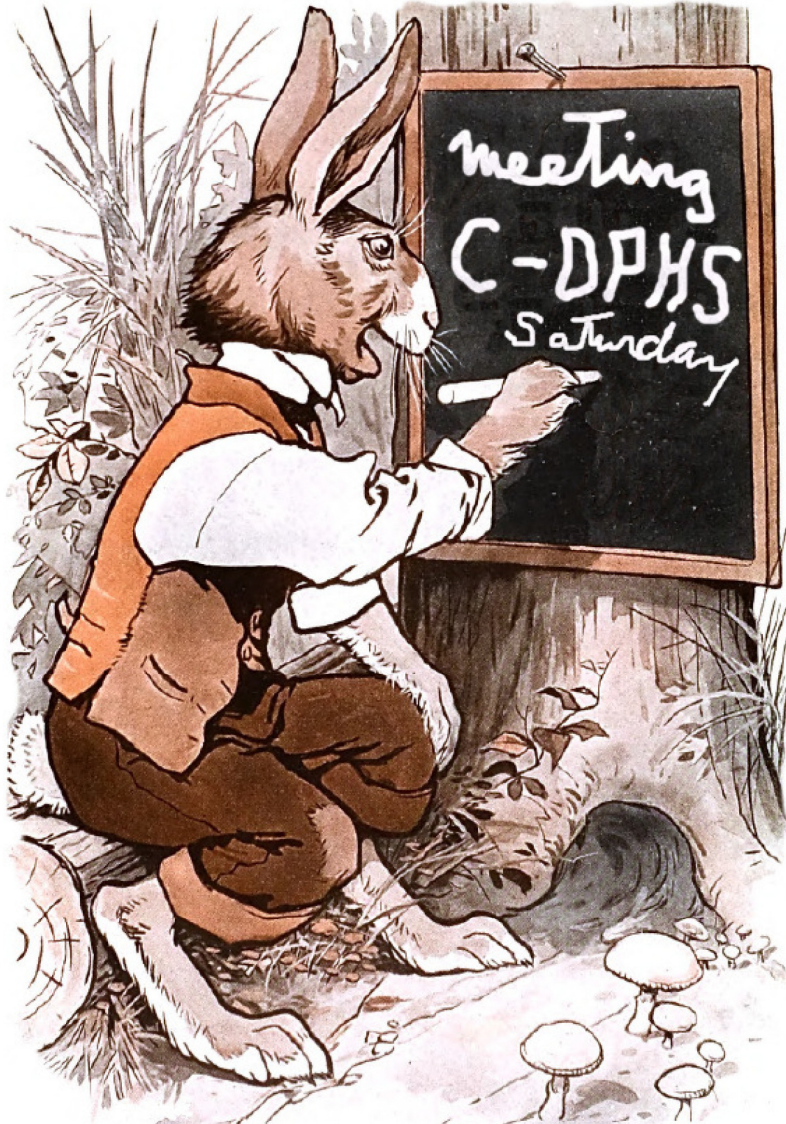
Society’s Office:

South side of the Deer Park City Hall Complex, 300 Block of East ‘A’ Street — look for the sign.

Editorial, Copyright, and Reprint Concerns:

Those contributing “original” materials to the Clayton ♦ Deer Park Historical Society normally retain copyright to said materials while granting the society a durable permission to use said materials in our electronic and print media — including permission to reprint said materials in future inhouse publications. Materials currently under copyright will require written permission from authorized individuals or corporations before inclusion. It’s the responsibility of any author submitting materials to secure all necessary clearances regarding such proprietary materials included in their manuscripts. This society takes violations of copyright seriously; therefore, we consider the application of common business precepts when dealing with intellectual properties a simple means of avoiding misunderstandings. No compensation for materials submitted is offered or implied. All materials submitted are subject to editorial revision.

*No need to feel left out
this year!*



*Join the
Clayton ♦ Deer Park
Historical Society.*

*Open Meeting Second Saturday of Each Month — 10:00 AM.
Deer Park City Hall Complex — 300 Block East 'A' Street — Look for the Sign.*

*(website) www.cdphs.org
(mailing address) Box 293, Clayton, Washington 99110
(telephone) 509-276-2693*

Illustration from "IMS Ayer & Sons Directory of Publications," 1911.