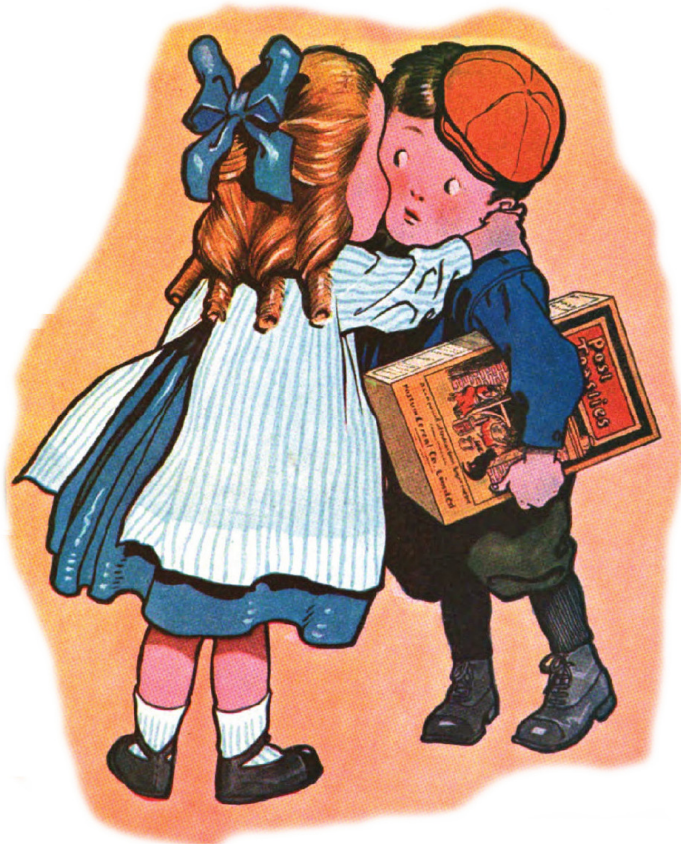


Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

Issue #11

February 9th, 2025



This page is not a permanent part of this newsletter. It's included here as a necessity when duplex printing this file as a single issue.

Above Illustration from the August 1911 issue of The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine.

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

**The Life of Louis James Bowler
Editor of Clayton's First Newspaper
— the Clayton Critic —**

— by Wally Lee Parker —

... the newspaper ...

Clayton's first known newspaper was the *Clayton Critic*. Currently the Library of Congress doesn't have any issues of said on file. In fact, as far as known the library doesn't have any record of said weekly having ever existed. But the Society does have a scan of one issue of that paper — that dated Friday, April 8th, 1910. Just below the paper's nameplate it's noted that the issue in hand is volume 1, number 10. Counting backward — and assuming that the weekly schedule had been kept from the beginning — the first issue would have been released on February 4th, 1910. The masthead — that found on the last page of the issue (a clipping of such pasted on page 111 of this newsletter) — states that the paper's editor was Louis J. Bowler.

Another bit of data seems to confirm the above, while adding a useful caveat. The February 12th, 1910 issue of the *Kettle River Journal*, published at Orient, Washington reported that "The Clayton Critic is a new publication just received, and it is a creditable newspaper too. Louis J. Bowler is editor-in-chief, and we notice that our friend Francis M. Corbell is assistant

editor." The useful caveat is that Mr. Corbell as "assistant editor" explains how Mr. Bowler could be the owner/editor, and also a fulltime teacher.

The basics above are confirmed by the image below — this snipped from the 1911 edition of *N. W. Ayer & Sons American Newspaper Annual and Directory*. The directory groups newspapers together according to the state in which they're published. Within each group the towns are listed alphabetically. As seen below, the top line of the clipping gives Clayton's population as 300 — the asterisk preceding indicating such is an estimate made locally. The "(H2)" appears to specify Clayton's approximate location on the map bound within the book — both Deer Park and Loon Lake are actually indicated on the map, but Clayton isn't. The line "Stevens Co. (N. E.)" apparently indicates the county is in the northeastern part of the state. At the beginning of 1911, Stevens County did cover the entirety of that corner of Washington — Pend Oreille County officially separating from Stevens County in March of that year. The county's population given — 23,880 — would be for the entire county and drawn from the 1910 census. "Tel" and "Exp" doubtless stand for telegraph

CLAYTON, pop. *300 (H 2); STEVENS CO. (N.E.), pop. 23,880. 27 m. N.W. of Spokane. Gt. N'thrn R.R. Tel. Exp. Bank, Deer Park. Clay products manufactured. Tungsten mined. Fruit growing district.
Critic Friday Republican..... 1910 8 15x22 1.00
LOUIS J. BOWLER, Editor and Publisher.

and express. Express seems to suggest access to a reasonably fast means of shipping newspaper related materials such as wordy manuscripts, photos and drawings etched on printable plates, column inches or entire pages of precast printing blocks, and plates carrying preformed advertisements and the like. If that definition is correct, it would indicate that the publication or publications being printed at that location had ready access to rail or riverboat shipments.

If more than one newspaper exists in a given town, those are listed — once again alphabetically — below the town’s description. First by title, then the frequency of publication — in the *Critic’s* case every “Friday.” The founding year, the number of pages (in this case 8), the size of each page (15 inches wide, 22 tall), the price of a yearly subscription, and the name of the editor and publisher follow — with the *Critic*, both said positions were filled by Louis J. Bowler.

Our one photocopy of the *Clayton Critic* was obtained by the Society’s late historian, Pete Coffin. As explained in an article published in the September 2017 issue of the society’s then newsletter, the *Mortarboard*, “As far as we know, only one issue of this publication still exists — that held as a memento by descendants of Clayton’s Wind family. Before her passing in the spring of 2012, Clayton’s Vera (Wind) Spaulding permitted Peter Coffin, vice-president of the C/DPHS, to create a digital copy of this publication — the *Clayton Critic’s* April 8th, 1910 issue.” A link to the *Mortarboard* from which this quote was extracted can be found in the “Further Reading” box below.

As noted, we have four pages of one issue of the *Clayton Critic*, while the N. W. Ayer directory says the *Critic* has eight pages. Eight-page papers usually consist of two large sheets folded, with one of these double sheets laid inside the other. In such an arrangement, the interior pages would be numbered 3, 4, 5, and 6. Pete scanned four pages — which appear to have been a standard double width sheet printed on all sides. If there had been an inner fold, that should be clearly evident by a gap in the page numbers. Unfortunately, our issue of the *Critic* doesn’t have page numbers. But that particular issue was settled when we ran across this snippet

The Clayton Critic

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY

LOUIS J. BOWLER Editor

Advertising rates, ten cents per inch.
Subscription rates .. \$1.00 per Year

The Clayton Critic.

Masthead from the April 8th, 1910 issue of Clayton’s first known newspaper.

from June 11th, 1910 issue of the *Bossburg Herald* — Bossburg being a small village, now a ghost town, located on the east side of the Columbia River about 16 miles north by northwest of Colville and 17 miles south of the Canadian border. On the above date the *Bossburg* newspaper reported that “*The Clayton Critic* has been enlarged to 8-pages and is one of the best papers in Stevens County.”

Currently we don’t know how long the *Critic* was in print. However, further research suggests it’s reasonable to assume that it had closed shop by the summer of 1912, if not before. On the 18th of July of that year a new newspaper, the *Clayton News-Letter*, with a new editor, the aforementioned assistant editor for the *Clayton Critic*, F. M. Corbell, began publication. The new editor’s opening comments in that first edition say nothing regarding the town’s prior newspaper or it’s “*editor-in-chief*.” For that we’ll have to look elsewhere.

... in search of Louis J. Bowler ...

An outline of Louis Bowler’s life is found in volume 3 of Nelson W. Durham’s classic *History of the City of Spokane and Spokane Country, Washington* — his life at least up until 1912, that being the year of that classic work’s publication. Following is the entirety of said outline.

“It is the universal opinion of thinking

Further Reading.

The Clayton News-Letter:

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

— 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

persons that the teacher is one of the most useful members of society. Especially is this true when he is thoroughly prepared for his calling and applies himself with such earnestness and ability as to read carefully the character of each pupil and arouse in him a true love of learning. Judging by what he has accomplished, Louis J. Bowler belongs among those who may be designated as true teachers. The success he has achieved as principal of the schools of Clayton is evidence of the genuineness of his qualifications and the respect in which he is held by the teachers of the schools is evidence of his personal worth. He is a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, born March 24, 1886, a son of Richard and Della Bowler, both of whom are now living."

The above plural "schools of Clayton" is puzzling, but rather than being an error, may have carried a meaning lost in the last 113 years.

The extract continues, "Louis J. Bowler received his early education in the public schools of Sparta, Michigan, and subsequently became a student of Albion College of Liberal Arts, at Albion, Michigan, being graduated from the institution with a degree of A. B. in 1905."

Some institutions prefer the Latin term Artium Baccalaureus (A. B.) to the more common B. A. (Bachelor of Arts). Whichever is used, they're essentially the same.

"After leaving college he served as principal of schools at Grand Rapids for one year, at the end of which time he came to Clayton Washington, where he has since occupied a similar position. During the summer months he practices law at Spokane, also attending to local work in the same line at Clayton.

"On the 30th of July, 1908, Mr. Bowler was married at Spokane to Miss Lillian Eves (more often spelled Lilian), a daughter of Robert and Eleanor Eves. Mr. Bowler is a staunch believer in the Christian religion and is a consistent member of the Episcopal Church. He is in hearty sympathy with the principles of the Re-

publican Party, believing that its platforms more nearly represent the true ideas that should prevail among the people of a popular government than those of any other political organization. He is an advocate of temperance and is a member of the Independent Order of Good Templars and of the Grange Farmers' Association. He also holds membership in the Knights of Pythias whose teachings of mutual helpfulness and courage he warmly espouses. Although a young man, he has made a long step toward the accomplishment of important objects in life and whether he applies himself as a teacher, lawyer, or businessman, it is evident that he will be satisfied with no ordinary attainment. He has many friends and is fully deserving of the confidence and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact."

Though the above carries the flavor of a public relations piece, Louis's actual life, as most lives turn out to be, was a lot more complicated. That said, the above line, "he will be satisfied with no ordinary attainment," proved an extremely adept prediction.

... the Clayton connection ...

The first local mention so far located regarding Louis Bowler's story isn't about him, rather it's about his future wife. Appearing in the May 15th, 1906 issue of the *Spokesman-Review*, an article datelined "Colville, Wash., May 12," reported that, "The quarterly examination of teachers for Stevens County for May was concluded today with a rather lighter attendance than usual, considering there are more than 150 positions to be filled and there has not been an examination in the county since last November. Those who tried for certificates were ..." Lillian Eves from West Branch was among those mentioned. The article concluded, "Of the 31 in attendance, only two took the examination for first grade certificate."

Proofreaders Wanted!



As usual, this newsletter's editor is in semi-desperate need of proofreaders. A draft of each pending issue in both PDF and Microsoft Word format will be forwarded to each volunteer. The PDF is the complete magazine in galley format. The Word copy will include all the text found in the issue. Proofreaders can use either or both of these formats, whichever they feel most comfortable with. Email the editor for more details, or to sign up.

I didn't understand what was meant by the term "*first grade certificate*" as interpreted in 1906. In researching, I found a document printed by the United States Bureau of Education in 1907 under the title "*Chapter IV, Digest of School Laws.*" A caveat was added stating that the material quoted was actually a "*Reprint of Chapter from Report of the Commissioner of Education for 1904.*"

The segment devoted to the education related laws of the State of Washington says, "*There shall be held at each county seat on the second Thursday of May, August, and November each year an examination of applicants for teachers' certificates conducted by the county superintendent according to the rules and regulations of the State Board. Applicants shall be at least 17 years of age, and shall be examined in reading, penmanship, orthography, written and mental arithmetic, geography, English grammar, physiology and hygiene, history and Constitution of the United States, school law and the constitution of the State of Washington, and the theory and art of teaching.*"

The most explicable definition of the unfamiliar word orthography was from Wikipedia, "*Orthography is a set of conventions for writing a language, including norms of spelling, punctuation, word boundaries, capitalization, hyphenation, and emphasis.*" What it was assumed to mean within the teaching profession as of 1904 would require more research.

It appears there were three grade levels at that time, in ascending order, third, second, and first. We've yet to find mention of which grade Lilian obtained when testing, or how often the resultant certificate needed to be renewed. However, if it were the lowest grade, certification was likely a yearly process.

I'm assuming the grade levels suggested the range of subjects the teachers were qualified to teach, and whether they were limited to teaching primary classes only, or could also teach high school students. Grade levels also suggested the monetary compensation expected — statewide third-class teachers at that time usually received 40 dollars or less a month.

There appears to have been an attempt underway as of 1907 to do away with the bottom of these three classes, thereby raising the level of education expected among teachers in Washington State, and raising the level of compensation as well.

Under the headline "*Nearly Half the Teachers Failed,*" the August 24th, 1906 edition of the *Spokane Chronicle* reported "*Out of 180 applicants, 95 were successful*" in obtaining

teaching certificates. The above Spokane County tests occurred on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of that month. Five of those certificates were first grade. One person achieved a second-grade renewal. And among the other successful teachers listed — all grade three — "*Lilian Eves.*"

By the end of 1906 it appears Lilian had certificates to teach in both Stevens and Spokane County.

Moving into 1907 we found the following in a *Spokane Chronicle* column titled "*News Notes of Clayton.*" There, under the dateline "*Clayton, Wash, Feb. 25th,*" the newspaper reported, "*Among the Spokane visitors last week were Mrs. Peter Berg, Messrs J. J. Vogt, L. J. Bowler, and J. A. Matteson.*" Currently this is the first known mention of Louis J. Bowler in Washington State.

Next is an article from the August 28th, 1907 *Spokane Chronicle*, where, under the heading "*They Can Teach,*" and the lead "*Following is a list of Spokane applicants to whom teacher certificates were granted at the recent examination,*" Louis J. Bowler is listed.

On November 9th the *Colville Examiner* printed the program for the Stevens County Teachers' Institute's weeklong meeting to be held in Colville beginning on the 18th of that month. Lilian Eves was mentioned twice in the program. First, during Friday afternoon's general assembly she was to be a solo vocalist. She was also noted as a member of the "*Introduction Committee.*"

In the *Colville Examiner's* November 23rd, 1907 issue, under the lead "*In Attendance at the Institute,*" the newspaper reported that "*Ida C. Curry, Lillian Eves, Kate B. Dial, and Lettie Wagoner*" were attendees from Meyers Falls, while Clayton was represented by "*Louis Bowler, Nora Smith, and Estella H. Seidell.*"

This is the first time the records uncovered so far place Lilian Eves and Louis Bowler at the same place at the same time. Considering Lilian was a solo singer during the institute's final assembly, if Louis, then teaching at Clayton, hadn't noticed Miss Eves before, he likely would have then. This of course is speculation, but considering the two ultimately spent sixty-two years, nine months, and one day as husband and wife, the Society will most likely forgive the assumption.

While singing before a fair size audience may suggest a certain social poise, the December 28th, 1907 issue of the *Colville Examiner*, in an announcement for the Stevens County Teachers' Association's January 4th, 1908 meeting, the statement that the afternoon agenda would in-

New Teachers

Reports made to County Superintendent Daisy Hard from various school districts show the following new teachers have been elected for the ensuing term:

- 11, Addy, Blanche Orr.
- 26, Gray, Salina Wells.
- 28, Marcus, Gertrude Blair and May Hotchkiss.
- 29, Clayton, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Bowler.
- 34, Gifford, Alice Gardner.
- 36, Colville, Charles Potter.
- 53, Northport, Clara Evenson.
- 71, Calispel, Josie Meyers.
- 74, Boundary, Ada C. Baker.
- 80, Meyers Falls, Anna L. Vanderwort and Ida C. Currie.
- 85, Chewelah, Lottie Wagner.
- 103, Tweedie, Alice Anderson.
- 113, Basin, Margaret Cowles.
- 120, Schmid, Louis H. Guernsey.
- 143, Valley, Lucia and Viola Stone.

This clipping is from the August 22nd, 1908, issue of the Colville Examiner. Since both Louis and Lilian are known to have been teaching at Clayton during the 1908-09 school year, and Lilian Bowler's middle initial was "C," it's possible the name "C. J. Bowler" resulted from a misread of the reporter's notes.

clude a lecture titled "Methods and Results in the Teaching of Language," the speaker being "Miss Lilian Eves," that does suggest the quality of her intellect.

... sorting out the family ...

The Washington State Digital Archive

contains a certificate of marriage recording a ceremony performed in the "City of Spokane" on the 30th of July, 1908. The groom, 22-year-old Louis J. Bowler, birthplace "Michigan," occupation listed as "General Agency Insurance," that day married 21-year-old "Lilian C. Eves," who listed her occupation as "Teacher" and birthplace "Minnesota." For both, the residence given at the time was "Spokane." And for both it was their first marriage. The rest of the information — name and birthplace of father, maiden name and birthplace of mother — matches the genealogical records of the two families.

There are newspaper mentions during 1909 regarding state certification of both Lilian and Louis Bowler as teachers.

Under the date May 23rd, the 1910 census has the Bowler family listed as residing in the town of Medical Lake. The head of the household is 46-year-old Richard Bowler, born in Michigan, and a carpenter by profession. Next is his wife Della, 43 at the time, also born in Michigan. Della doesn't appear to have been employed outside of the home. The elders have been married for 25 years. The first child listed is 24-year-old Lewis (actually Louis). He's also listed as married, but only for 2 years. There's no mention of his wife. His profession is "teacher," and his place of employment "high school." Next on the list is Minnie — 19-year-old and single. According to the census form, she has no occupation. Then comes 16-year-old "Lile M." This appears to have been Robert Lyle Bowler. His occupation as indicated in the census, a laborer. His place of employment was recorded as "brickyard." And his place of birth, Michigan. The last family member listed was Robert V. — Robert Vern. At the time of the census, he was 2 years old, and the only family member listed as born in Washington State.

And yes, the data on hand suggests two of the family's three sons carried the first name Robert.

Regarding the census, it appears the children were listed as if residing in Medical Lake, when at least two, Louis and Robert Lyle could be documented as living at Clayton — Louis as a teacher, and Lyle as a student. As noted in the February 12th, 1910 edition of the *Colville Examiner*, "County Superintendent Daisy L. Hard has completed the grading of the papers of the 253 pupils of the county who wrote the 8th grade mid-winter examination. Of these the following 15 passed." Among those few listed, "Lyle Bowler and William Carpenter, Clayton." When Lyle's occupation was recorded in the census three months later as a laborer in a brickyard, it's like-

ly the brickyard being referenced was Washington Brick & Lime's Clayton factory.

At this point there's little to suggest that the eldest son, Louis James, and the youngest, Robert Vern, were destined to become significant footnotes in the history of World War II — but they most certainly did.

... lessons learned at Clayton ...

The May 6th, 1910 issue of the *Spokane Chronicle* reported, "Louis J. Bowler, editor of the Clayton Critic, offers a pennant to the baseball team of Stevens (County) winning the highest percentage of games actually played in the county between dates of April 24 and September 15."

The *Chronicle's* May 30th edition, under the headline "Recital at Deer Park," said, "One of the most interesting musical events of the season at Deer Park, Wash., was the recital given Friday evening by Mrs. Mark Ogan and her pupils, assisted by Mrs. Clarence Walter, pianist, and Virgil B. Smith, violinist." Among those performing, "Mrs. Louis J. Bowler."

Then the following snippet, this from the July 12, 1910 *Spokesman-Review*, draws the necessary connection between Medical Lake and Clayton. Beneath the dateline "Medical Lake, Wash.," a paragraph reported, "Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Bowler are visiting his parents. Mr. Bowler is editor of the Clayton Critic."

And then this clipping from the August 1st, 1910 issue of the *Spokane Chronicle* suggested Louis had his aspirations set a bit higher than teacher alone. "Louis J. Bowler, editor of the Clayton Critic, last Saturday filed a declaration of his candidacy for the office of Superintendent of Schools of Stevens County as a republican candidate."

Louis would find several truths complicating his run for elected office. Clayton expressed a strong anti-saloon sentiment. And politics — even in the good old days — was a very dirty business.

The September 1st, 1910 edition of the *Newport Miner* carried an almost full-page "Notice by County Auditor of Primary Election for State and County Officers." The lead-in explained, "Notice is hereby given that a primary election to nominate candidates to be voted for at the general election to be held on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November, A. D. 1910, will be held in Stevens County, State of Washington, on the thirteenth day of September, 1910, at which primary election the polls will be and remain open from 11 o'clock in the

morning until 8 o'clock in the evening of said day." The notice added that those waiting in line at the time of closing would be entitled to vote regardless of said closing time.

Only two candidates were listed for Superintendent of Schools. One republican, Louis J. Bowler of Clayton, and one democrat, A. D. Foster of Colville. Even before the count, it was a given that these two would be facing each other in November.

All seemed set and well until the following appeared in September 10th edition of the *Colville Examiner*. "Information and complaint against Louis J. Bowler, superintendent of the Clayton schools, was filed with the county superintendent of schools Wednesday, charging him with intemperance, citing specific cases. Three affidavits, signed by a number of the residents of Clayton, were filed with the complaint, the affidavits being sworn to before a notary public.

"The allegations set forth that Bowler has been in the habit of using intoxicants; that he has been seen drinking at a bar in Clayton, and that on one occasion he had to be helped home.

"A request was made for a hearing before the county superintendent Sept. 9, but after an investigation by the county superintendent, the matter will be placed in the hands of the state superintendent of public instruction, as is the method in case of state certificates."

On September 24th, the *Colville Examiner* released the results of the September 13th primary. Of the two candidates running for School Superintendent, republican Louis Bowler received 1,450 votes, democrat A. D. Foster, 460.

On the 26th of September, the *Spokesman-Review* printed the following. "Is Professor Louis J. Bowler, principal of the Clayton schools in Stevens County, and republican candidate for county school superintendent, guilty of gross intemperance as charged, or is he the victim of politics is the question that State Superintendent of Schools H. B. Dewey must decide.

"I consider the case one of the most important of the kind that I have ever had to deal with," said Superintendent Dewey last night on his arrival from Clayton after the hearing. "I fully realize that the future of the accused depends upon a prompt decision. I have watched the case very carefully and will give a decision after I have made further investigation."

"The Bowler case has attracted much attention in political circles of Stevens County. Bowler, who is principal of the Clayton schools, has held the position for five (more like 4 at that point) years.

"In the primary he received the republi-

can nomination, and his election seemed probable. Daisy L Hard is superintendent of schools in Stevens County, and her deputy, A. D. Foster, is the democratic nominee for school superintendent. It is alleged that Miss Hard and Bowler have always been fast friends. She was elected as a democrat, however.

"In her letters to Superintendent Dewey she tells of the charges brought against Bowler. She says she has been petitioned to revoke the certificate of Bowler, as he has been charged with gross intemperance.

"The school board filed a statement with Superintendent Dewey to the effect that Bowler is strictly temperate and an excellent instructor. Bowler contends that he is the victim of a man whom he caused to be arrested for conducting a blind pig.

"More than 40 witnesses were heard Monday at Clayton. Samuel T. Crane represents Bowler and J. J. Lavin the opposing side."

According to my *Random House Dictionary*, the origin of the term "blind pig" was a variation of slang term "blind tiger" — that indicating an illegal saloon. The phrase "blind tiger" first appeared in America's Midwestern and Southern States in the late 1850s, that believed derived from the practice of fronting such saloons as "exhibitions of natural curiosities" and the like. The rebranded term "blind pig" appears to have first surfaced in the "Inland North and Pacific States" in the late 1860s — though the meaning, essentially a working-class speakeasy, was the same as "blind tiger."

The results of Superintendent Dewey's decision were reported in several regional newspapers. The following are a selection of snippets from those findings as published in the October 27th *Spokesman-Review* — 13 days before the election.

Under the headline "School Principal Who Patronized 'Blind Pig' Exonerated By Dewey," the report began, "Teachers of the State of Washington may patronize a 'blind pig' provided they drink nothing stronger than ginger ale and may drop into a saloon to order a glass of milk without fear of having their certificates revoked, according to the decision rendered yesterday by Henry B. Dewey, state superintendent of schools, in the Louis J. Bowler case heard Monday at Clayton."

The article reports, "'I did not find the evidence such as to justify me in revoking the certificate of Bowler,' said Mr. Dewey in commenting on his decision yesterday. 'The testimony shows that Bowler has associated with parties of questionable repute, but I do not know what

his motives were and feel that he has suffered unjust censure, although Miss Hard has done her duty without question.'"

Regarding the charge of public intoxication, after noting "such would be sufficient to warrant the revocation of his certificate," Mr. Dewey concluded "The evidence to support this charge is clearly insufficient."

All that said, Mr. Dewey concluded, "Bowler was further charged with the frequent use of intoxication liquor. The evidence was voluminous, conflicting and contradictory. If Bowler is entirely innocent, it seems unfortunate for him that he found it necessary to drop into Jimmy Durkin's saloon to order a glass of milk or to patronize a blind pig to get a glass of ginger ale.

"In view of the contradictory evidence submitted, I have dismissed the charges against Bowler."

As of yet I've found no evidence that the above referenced and somewhat notorious Spokane saloon and liquor store owner James 'Jimmie' Durkin ever owned a liqueur dispensing establishment or any part of such an establishment in Clayton. If Durkin in fact did not, that would suggest Mr. Dewey was not immune to the use of political hyperbole in comments directed at his opponent.

Regardless, a few days later, in the *Spokesman-Review's* October 31st issue, Louis Bowler struck back. Among his comments, "'On September 9,' alleges Mr. Bowler, 'Daisy L Hard, county superintendent of schools went to Clayton and spent the day in conference with several of my bitterest enemies. She did not once speak to a friend of mine or an impartial persons. After I had been nominated at the primaries, I received a summons to appear before the county superintendent of schools to answer to a charge of intemperance. I was given but little time to prepare my defense, and none to secure witnesses.'

"'At the hearing before Miss Hard, and evidence,' continues Mr. Bowler, 'that appeared derogatory to my character was introduced without regard to its weight. Most of it was frivolous and absurd. Absolutely nothing was shown against me, and the whole thing was a fraud and a farce. Miss Hard's decision was that I was guilty of intemperance despite the weakness of the prosecution.'

"'The blind pig I was accused of frequenting was a confectionary and pool room such as is found in every town. The fact that I happened to be in the place a couple of times, and the fact that it was closed by law three weeks after the last time I stopped in it to buy a pack-

age of gum, gave rise to the accusation. One evening I happened to be ill, I was charged with being intoxicated.”

“Other charges filed against Mr. Bowler are branded as false. He also asserts that one of the witnesses against him was a low character.”

The day after the election the *Spokane Chronicle*, under the headline “Colville Gives Dries Victory: All Republican County Officers Elected With One Exception,” an article dated “Colville, Wash., Nov. 9,” reported that the republican candidate Louis Bowler had lost his bid to be Stevens County’s superintendent of schools.

Several weeks later the final vote count proved to be 1,582 votes for Bowler, against 2,075 in favor of the democrat. The above headline “Colville Gives Dries Victory” implies there was a strong temperance bias among voters of that era — suggesting Louis’s opponents knew exactly where to hit him to turn what was otherwise a republican wave.

... moving on ...

Despite what the majority of Stevens County’s voters may have thought of Louis Bowler’s sobriety as of the autumn of 1910, Clayton’s opinion of his ability as a teacher was clarified by this item published in the September 1st, 1911 issue of the *Loon Lake Times*. Under the heading “Clayton Chatter: Local and Personal News of the Terra Cotta Town,” the *Times* reported, “The Clayton schools open on Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Bowler in charge. F. S. Fleming will act as janitor, while R. E. Jones will transport the country pupils to and from school.”

The constant references in prior materials to the Clayton schools in the plural seemed to imply something about the town’s school or schools that isn’t evident in the available newspaper accounts. A suggestion as to what is being alluded to was found in a supplemental publication titled “*Educational Directory State of Washington: Statistics for the school year ending June 30, 1911.*”

The beginning of the material contained a listing of county superintendents with terms commencing on the 4th of September, 1911. In said listing Stevens County’s new superintendent was the previously referenced A. D. Foster of Colville.

In a segment of the directory titled “*School Statistics for 1910-1911*” — and specific to Clayton — the following were listed. “Number of district, 150; Number of school

houses in district, 1; Number of teachers required to conduct school, 2.” Regarding salaries at Clayton, the *Statistics* reported the “Average to principal, \$1,125; Average to grade teachers, \$850.” The principal for the 1911-1912 school year was “Louis J. Bowler.” The list went on to note that the “Number of months (the) school was maintained, 9; Whole number of pupils enrolled, 107; Average daily attendance, 81; Number of grades maintained, 9; Number of high school pupils, 2.”

The fact that there were several high school students among the grade schoolers is more than likely why the plural “schools” was used when referencing Clayton — the high school considered a separate school even though in the same building.

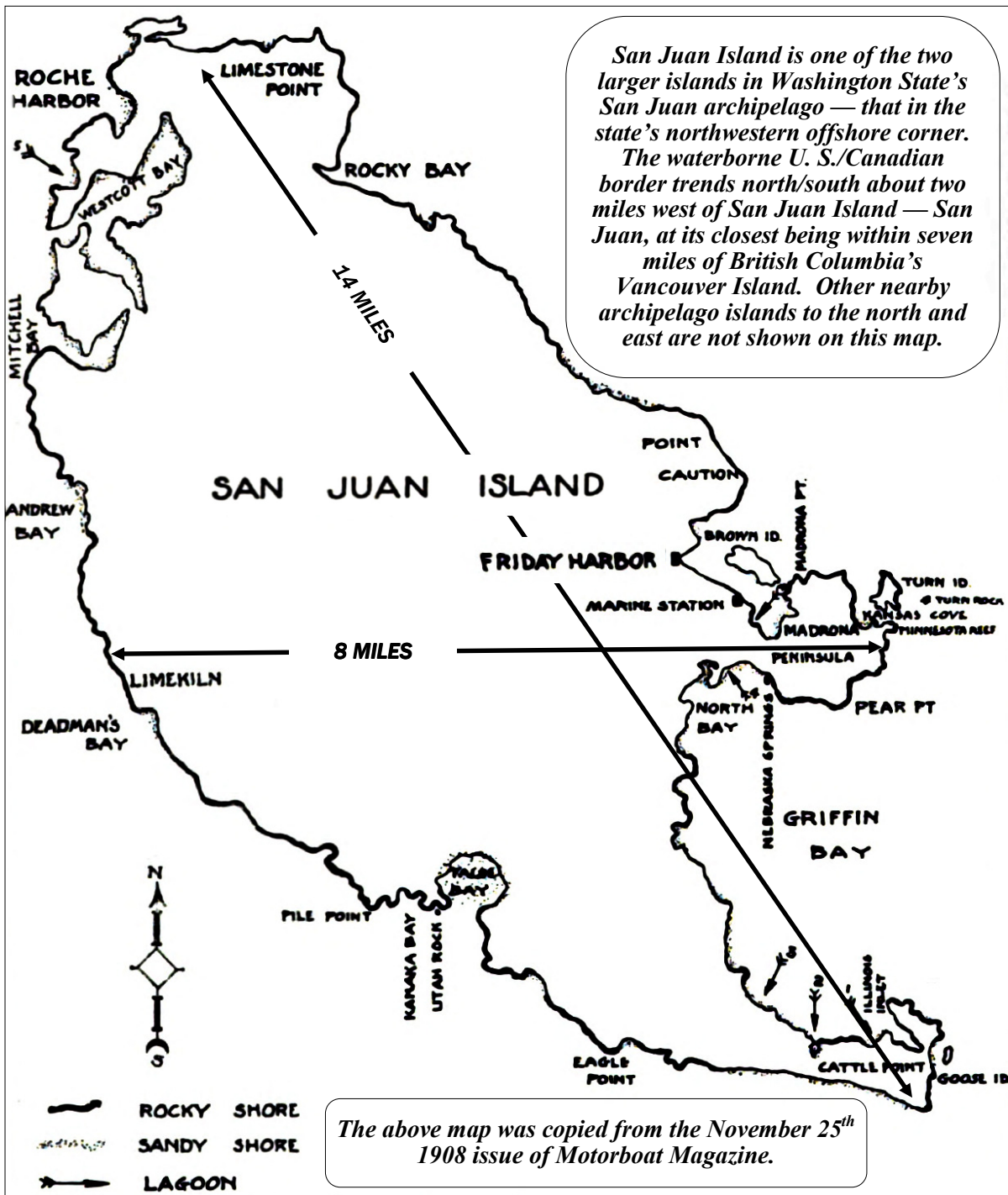
Among the 18 school districts listed for Stevens County, 5 reported having more than one schoolhouse in the district — those being Addy, Marcus, and Chewelah with 2; Colville with 3; and Fruitland with 4.

The districts that reported having more than 8 grades — suggesting they offered from 1 to 4 years of high school classes — those included Colville with 4 high school grades; Chewelah, Marcus and Northport with 3; Hunters and Kettle Falls with 2; Clayton, Echo, Greenwood, Loon Lake, Meyers Falls, Springdale, and Valley with 1.

In *Patterson’s College and School Directory* for 1908, Louis J. Bowler is listed as the “Principal” at Clayton. Evidence indicates we can assume he held that title for his entire stay at Clayton. Regarding that stay, we have documented that he began teaching at Clayton in the late summer of 1907, and continued through the spring of 1912 — that being five school years.

We also know that in July of 1912 F. M. Corbell, as editor-in-chief, began publishing a newspaper — the *Clayton News-Letter* — that either being a rebranding of Louis Bowler’s prior *Clayton Critic*, or an entirely new newspaper intended to fill the vacuum left by the *Critic*’s withdrawal from publication at some point prior. If either, we simply don’t know which.

What happened at the end of 1912’s school year can be deduced from an article in the May 17th, 1912 edition of the *San Juan Islander*. This newspaper was produced at Friday Harbor, a village on the east side of the island of San Juan, that being a relatively large island in the San Juan archipelago, said grouping of islands snuggled in United States territorial waters between the lower edge of British Columbia’s Vancouver Island and Washington State’s northwestern mainland.



Under the heading "New Teachers Elected," the article stated, "At a special meeting of the school board held Tuesday evening teachers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: Principal, Mr. Louis J. Boler; Seventh and Eighth Grades, Miss Juanita Barry; Fifth and Sixth Grades, Miss Julia Frits; Second Primary, Domestic Science and Music, Mrs. Lilian Bowler; First Primary, Miss Carrie Rusby.

"The principal-elect has been principal of the school at Clayton, this state, for a number

of years, and before coming there he was the principal of one of the schools at Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is very highly recommended and leaves his present position, where his salary is much higher than it will be here, much against the wishes of the school board and people of the town.

"Mrs. Bowler is especially trained in the work of the primary grades and is the highest paid lady teacher in Stevens County."

On the 23rd this ad appeared in the

town's newspaper. *"Wanted — Girl for general housework, preferably one who can return to her own home nights. — Mrs. L. J. Bowler."*

As to how the Bowlers were adjusting to their new community, this reprinting of a piece from the *Olympic Daily Recorder* appeared in the May 23rd, 1913 edition of the *San Juan Islander* under the lead *"County Has Model School System."*

The article begins, *"In their travels about the state on matters of educational interest, the members of the state superintendent's office occasionally run upon unique situations. Mrs. Mary A. Bryan has made such a discovery in San Juan County"* — Washington State's San Juan County is composed entirely of islands group in the northeast corner of the Salish Sea at the bottom of British Columbia's Strait of Georgia.

Among the unique situations Mrs. Bryan discussed was the following. *"Another feature is Principal Louis J. Bowler, of Friday Harbor, who is a practical demonstrator of practical education. Mr. Bowler has a dental outfit in his high school in which all students are subjected to dental inspection and care. He also subjects them to examination by an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist. He is principal of the high school, housed in a \$15,000 building and which offers a four-year course. Manual training, domestic science and social center work are developed to a high degree."*

On September 9th, 1913, the *Spokesman-Review* carried this under the dateline *"Medical Lake, Wash., Sept. 6. — Mrs. R. W. Bowler, daughter Minnie and sons Lyle and William, left last Monday for Friday Harbor, where Mr. Bowler has purchased a Store."* And with that, Louis's father, mother, and entire family had relocated to the western side of the state.

That said, the very next year Louis J. Bowler continued moving upward within Washington State's educational system as indicated in the April 29th, 1914 edition of the *Bellingham Herald*. *"L. J. Bowler of Friday Harbor has been elected by the school board for the superintendency of the Ferndale Schools."*

Ferndale is a moderate size coastal town located on Washington's mainland about 10 miles south of the Canadian border, and thirty miles northeast of the island community of Friday Harbor.

On June 5th the *San Juan Islander* reported, *"Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Bowler left Saturday morning for Cheney, where Mr. Bowler will attend the summer session of the state normal school taking a course in school supervision with*



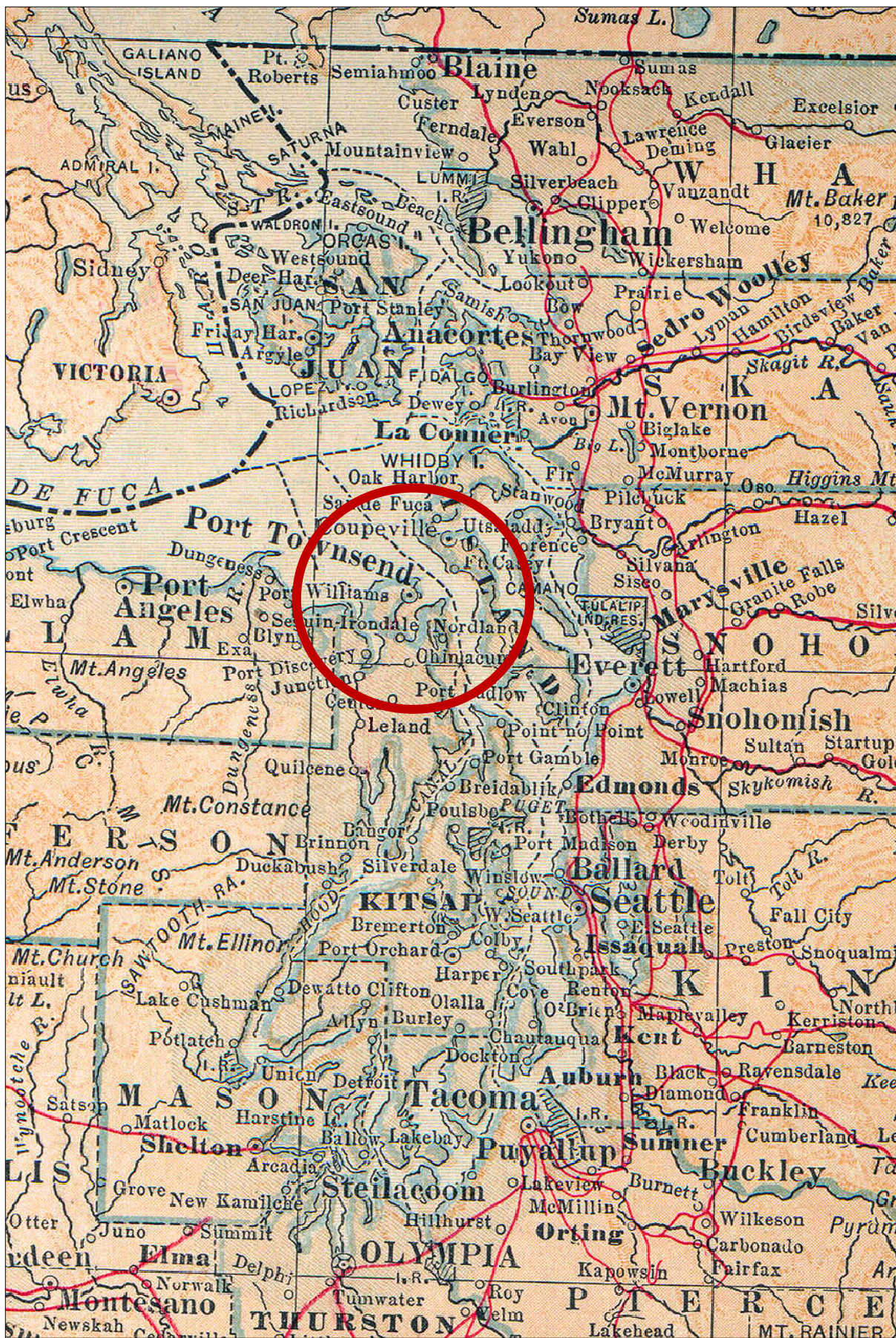
***Ferndale Superintendent
Louis J. Bowler
1916.***

special reference to the work which he will have to do as superintendent of the Ferndale schools."

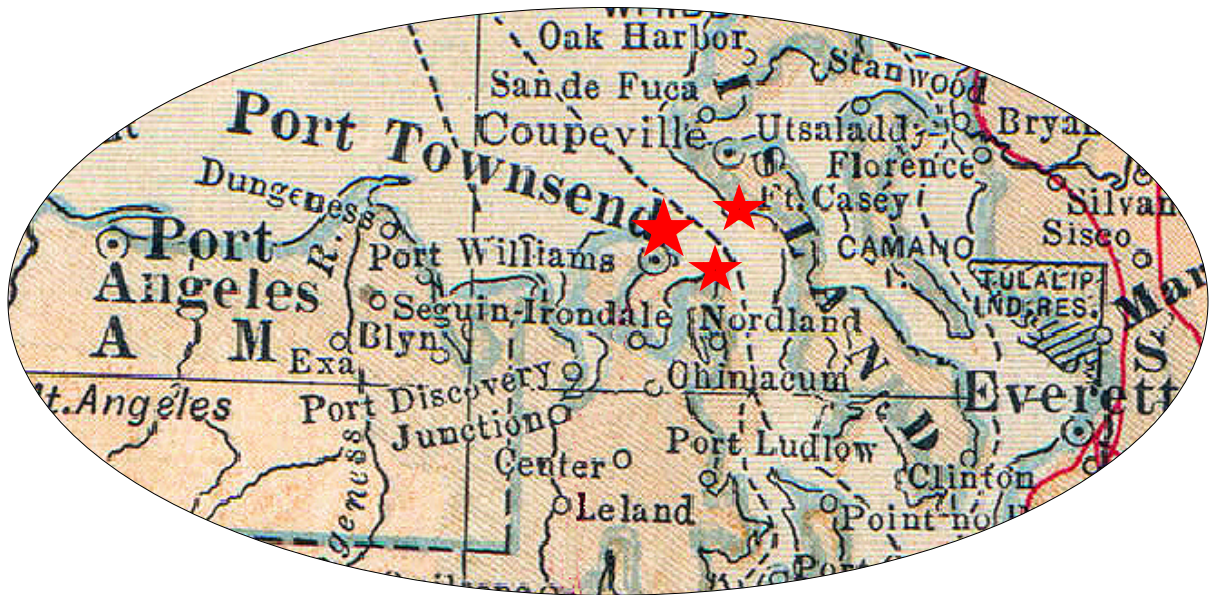
The *Lynden Tribune's* June 3rd, 1915 edition reported that *"The bond election which was held on Saturday, May 29th, for voting bonds for the erection of an addition to the high school for the new Consolidated District No. 302, composed of East Mt. View, North Star, Evergreen, Alder Grove and Ferndale carried by a large majority."* The article went on to note that the superintendent for District 302 was Louis J. Bowler. It also stated that Mr. Bowler would be teaching *"penmanship, bookkeeping, and psychology"* at the high school.

... a new direction ...

As far as currently known, Louis Bowler's history at Clayton ended with his move to the coast. That move might have been motivated by the fact that his wife's family lived in the Puget Sound area. Or maybe it was the result of still circulating rumors regarding his intemperance. But once the move was made, his history



Map from, "The New Encyclopedia, Atlas, and Gazetteer of the World," by W. Patt & J. Homans, 1911 edition. University of Texas at Austin.



“A Triangle of Fire.”

In June of 1896 the United States Congress ordered the construction of three fortified gun emplacements to defend the Admiralty Strait entrance to Washington State’s Puget Sound. The most westerly was Fort Worden, on the northeast tip of the Quimper Peninsula. The middle fortification was within the throat of the strait on the northern edge of Marrowstone Island. The furthest east, just across the four-mile-wide waterway from Fort Worden was Whidbey Island’s Fort Flagler.

To defend against any intruders attempting to enter Puget Sound through Deception Pass and down the east side of Whidbey Island via Skagit Bay, Fort Whitman was situated some sixteen miles north by northwest from Fort Flagler on Goat Island — that a small seven-tenths of a mile wide island standing just off the eastern shore of Skagit Bay. There were several other United States Army forts deeper in Puget Sound, most now Washington State Parks.

began drifting in a new direction, as suggested by this article appearing in the August 24th, 1916 edition of the *Journal of the San Juan Islands*. To quote, “We note that Prof. L. J. Bowler, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Bowler of Friday Harbor, and former principal of the Friday Harbor schools, has been appointed a lieutenant of the Ninth Company of the Ferndale detachment of the coast artillery and is now enjoying camp life at Fort Worden. Prof. Bowler is principal of the Ferndale schools.”

Fort Worden was located on the northernmost tip of the Quimper Peninsula and just north of the village of Port Townsend. Just to the east of the former fort’s site — said site now preserved as Fort Worden State Park — is the four-mile-wide inlet to Admiralty Strait, the singular deepwater passage into Puget Sound.

The United States officially entered World War I on the 6th of April, 1917. On August 1st, 1917, the *Bellingham Herald* reported that 286 “young men left this morning for a fort somewhere on Puget Sound to enter the active service of the federal army.” It continued, “The long-expected call to the Second and Ninth Com-

panies, Coastal Artillery, came yesterday afternoon ordering them to proceed to a fort whose name the authorities have censored for publication.”

The article noted, “The officers of the Ninth Company are: Bradford B. Holmes, Captain; Louis J Bowler, First Lieutenant; Henry W. Grant, Second Lieutenant; and George Z. Worden, First Sargeant.”

An image obtained from the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs and available from the Washington State Digital Archive’s “World War I Service Statement Cards,” those covering the years 1917 through 1919, indicate that Louis J. Bowler was a resident of Ferndale when drafted — that on August 5th, 1917. It notes that he was not deployed overseas while the United States was at war, his stations being within Washington State at Fort Casey, Fort Worden, and Camp Lewis.

Regarding his civilian job, the *Bellingham Herald*’s August 18th edition announced that “The Ferndale school board has been successful in securing Dr. E. T. Mathes as superintendent of schools in place of Louis J. Bowler.”

A letter from Dr. Mathes — former president of the Washington State Normal School at Bellingham — published in the *Northwest Journal of Education's* October 1917 edition quoted the doctor as stating he had been “drafted ... to serve as Acting Superintendent of the Ferndale consolidated schools during the absence of Supt. L. J. Bowler, who is now at Fort Casey.” The letter ends, “Superintendent Bowler hopes to be back by January.”

The February 7th, 1918 *Journal of the San Juan Islands* reported, “The Journal is informed that L. J. Bowler, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Bowler of Friday Harbor, who is one of Uncle Sam’s fighting men stationed at Fort Casey, has been advanced in rank from 1st Lieutenant to that of Captain.”

The May 1st, 1918 *Bellingham Herald* stated, “Captain Louis J. Bowler, former principal of the Ferndale high school, has been assigned to the officers’ training school for artillerymen at Fort Monroe, VA.”

On November 28th, 1918 — several weeks after the November 11th armistice effectively ending World War I — this appeared in the *Journal of the San Juan Islands*. “Captain Louis J. Bowler left Seattle, Nov. 2nd, with the 39th regiment of heavy artillery for overseas duty. He held the staff position of orientation officer, also commanding Battery D. Capt. Bowler was formerly principal of the Friday Harbor Schools.”

Two things might be drawn from this. According to the records of the veterans administration, this transfer wasn’t considered World War I wartime service. Also, with this it appears Captain Bowler’s commitment to return as superintendent of the Ferndale schools had dissolved.

As to where the above “39th regiment of heavy artillery” was sent, that seems clarified by the following, drawn from the November 27th, 1923 edition of the *San Francisco Journal*. “Each of the following-named officers is relieved from further duty in the Philippine department, to take effect upon the completion of his present tour of foreign service, and is assigned to duty and station as indicated after his name: Captain Louis J. Bowler, C. A. C., coast defenses of Puget Sound, Fort Worden; ...”

At this point in his life, it appears Louis Bowler intended to become a career army officer — that likely confirmed by this sentence from an article appearing in the August 15th, 1924 edition of the *Olympic-Tribune*. “Captain Bowler is adjutant of the Coast Defenses of Puget Sound at Fort Worden.”

That wasn’t to suggest he’d given up teaching — as noted in the following from the same day’s *Port Townsend Leader*. “Captain L. J. Bowler has been ordered to report for duty at the University of Washington on September 1 as instructor.”

Then this appeared in the May 12th, 1925 issue of Everett, Washington’s *Daily Herald* under the heading “Snohomish Briefs.” “Captain L. J. Bowler of Camp Lewis, instructor inspector of coast artillery, inspected Battery K on Monday evening.”

Just a month later an article in the *Spokesman-Review* indicates that “Major Louis J. Bowler of the coast artillery corps,” was to sit as a judge at a court-martial related to an accidental shooting at Yakima’s National Guard shooting range.

It appears that Major Bowler and his wife moved between the Philippines and the United States several times in ensuing years. After almost 20 years of service, this appeared in the April 23rd, 1936 issue of the *Alameda Times Star*, Alameda, California. “Major Louis J. Bowler, formerly of the Sixtieth Coast Artillery in Manila, Philippine Islands, has been named to succeed Major Harold S. Johnson as commander of the Alameda high school R. O. T. C. unit, it was learned today. ... Major Bowler will take charge when the school term opens next September.”

With wars raging in both Europe and the Pacific, and the likelihood being America’s inevitable involvement, the Major’s time in the states was not to last long. On November 15th, 1939, under the dateline “Washington, Nov. 14 — Army orders today,” the following terse statement appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*. “Majors: ... Louis J. Bowler, C. A. C., Alameda, Cal., to Philippine Department.”

... Louis’s youngest little brother ...

Up to this point in Louis’s professional life, we’ve little information on the life of his middle brother, Robert Lyle. We do know that Lyle was called for an induction physical during World War I, but there’s nothing suggesting he was actually inducted. His death at age 61, that in 1955, was due to a traffic accident. At his time of death, he was working as a salesman for Sears & Roebuck — that according to his obituary.

The youngest of the three brothers, Robert Vern Bowler, followed his own unique path — though he seemed to have been influenced to some degree by the examples provided by his

father and two older brothers. Vern was significantly younger than both his brothers — Louis being the elder by 21 years, 3 months, and 11 days, and Lyle 13 years, 11 months, and 19 days older.

We can pick up Vern's story with this blip in the June 7th, 1929 edition of the *Bellingham Herald*. "Mr. Robert V. Bowler has returned from Pullman, where he attended the Washington State College and will be with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. Bowler, 2623 Meridian Street during vacation."

The May 22nd, 1931 edition of the *Spokane Chronicle* reported, "Travel orders for Washington State College students who are authorized to attend the Fort George Wright Reserve Officers' training camp, opening June 12, were received yesterday." Among the students mentioned, "Robert V. Bowler of Bellingham."

On November 3rd of that year, the *Bellingham Herald* said, "Mr. Robert V. Bowler, 2523 Meridian Street, who is a student at Washington State College, has been promoted to the captaincy of the college infantry."

On March 14th of 1932, the *Bellingham Herald* carried the following. "Robert V. Bowler, of Bellingham, is included in the list of Washington State College students given appointments, promotions, and assignments as cadet officers in the State College R. O. T. C. Bowler, who is a senior in the school of business administration, holds the rank of cadet captain of Company B."

And finally, this appeared in the May 13th, 1932 *Spokane Chronicle* under the dateline, "Washington State College, Pullman, May 13. — At the R. O. T. C. graduation parade held yesterday President E. O. Holland presented diplomas of commissions to 26 senior men. The following named students having satisfactorily completed four years of training in the R. O. T. C., were commissioned second lieutenants of infantry officers' reserve corps, United States Army, by direction of the president."

Records indicate that Miss Lillian Elizabeth Pierce and Robert V. Bowler were married on the 28th of July, 1934. According to the *Bellingham Herald*, the couple were to take up residence at Mount Vernon, Washington.

Going forward, there were occasional mentions of either or both Lillian and Robert Bowler — most such of a social nature. But one of particular interest appeared in the June 27th, 1937 *Spokesman-Review*. The article began, "Final plans for opening the Citizens' Military Training Corps camp began to take shape with receipt Saturday of orders for 42 reserve officers

to report for duty.

"All reserve officers ordered to camp are members of the 384th infantry ... with headquarters in Spokane."

One those from July 1st through July 14th session was "First lieutenant Robert V. Bowler, Yakima."

On July 5th the *Spokane Chronicle* carried a photo under the headline "These Officers Responsible for Training of Citizen Soldiers This Year." The text below the group photo of 17 army officers in part read, "Responsibility for the proper training of the 132 young men enrolled for this season's Citizen Military Training Camp course at Fort George Wright rests with reserve officers of the 384th infantry. The detail of officers for the first half of the camp period is shown here." Among them, "First Lieutenant R. V. Bowler, Yakima."

My assumption from all this is that Robert was on temporary assignment with a National Guard unit at Yakima during the summer of 1937.

The next thing of particular interest was this from the November 17th, 1940 issue of the *Bellingham Herald*. Under the lead, "Captain Bowler to Report for Duty," was this. "Captain Robert V. Bowler, infantry reserves, has been ordered to active service for one year, and will report for duty at Fort Lewis Monday.

"Mrs. Bowler will remain in Bellingham for a time, until living accommodations can be secured in Tacoma."

... the Bowler Brothers at war ...

The following was posted in the November 9th, 1941 edition of the *Bellingham Herald* under the dateline "Port Lewis, Wash., Oct. 9." In part the article said, "Captain Robert V. Bowler of Bellingham has recently received orders from the war department for his transfer from this post to the Philippine department. He will sail for the Far East in the near future.

"Mrs. Bowler, nee Lillian Pierce, of Bellingham probably will live with her parents, in compliance with army requirements allowing no families to accompany officers to Eastern duty.

"The captain has one boy, Stuart, 3½ years old."

On December 8th, 1941 — the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor — an article appeared in the *Bellingham Herald* under the headline, "Bellingham Men in New Battle Zone." The following snippet is from that article. "Two Bellingham brothers, Colonel L. J. Bowler and Captain R. V. Bowler are stationed at Fort Mills in

the Philippines.”

Fort Mills was located on Corregidor Island, a small (approximately four miles long and just over one mile wide) island situated at the entrance to Manila Bay — said bay located on the southwestern edge of the big island of Luzon.

On March 9th, 1942, under the headline “Wife Hears from Captain Bowler,” this appeared in the *Bellingham Herald*. “Weeks of worry over the safety of her husband, captain of an infantry company with the embattled American forces in the Pacific, were lifted Monday for Mrs. Lillian Bowler of Bellingham.

“Sunday night she received a terse cablegram from her husband, Captain Robert V. Bowler, from ‘somewhere in the Pacific.’ The message said ‘everything’s fine here.’

“It was the first news Mrs. Bowler has heard of her husband since December 18. ‘The message didn’t say where he is, but that’s bedside the point. I know he is all right,’ said Mrs. Bowler.”

On May 7th, 1942, the *Journal of the San Juan Islands* reported, “The promotion of Robert V. Bowler from captain to major has been learned by Mrs. Bowler.” That information was in the form of a letter that her husband had posted in mid-March. He also reported he’d been wounded in the leg but was nearly recovered.

Corregidor had surrendered May 6th, the day before this article appeared in the *Journal*.

The *Bellingham Herald’s* May 23rd, 1942 edition informed the citizenry via headline that “Robert V. Bowler Listed Missing.” This fact was drawn from a letter posted to Mrs. Lillian Bowler from the army’s adjutant general dated “Washington D. C., May 18.”

Part of the letter read, “The war department will consider the persons serving in the Philippine Islands as ‘missing in action’ from the date of the surrender of Corregidor, May 7, 1942, until definite information to the contrary is received.”

The date of surrender noted above is due to the fact that the Philippine Islands are on the west side of the international dateline.

The above article also noted, “Major Bowler, who is 34 years of age, is a brother of Colonel Louis Bowler, who was stationed in the Philippines when last heard from and who also may be missing in action.”

As for the oldest Bowler brother, this appeared in the *Bellingham Herald’s* January 31st, 1943 issue. “Col. Louis J. Bowler of Bellingham, unheard from since before the fall of Corregidor, is a prisoner of the Japanese. Word

that the colonel is held by the enemy at Taiwan, Formosa, was received from the U. S. war department Saturday by Richard W. Bowler, father of the officer.”

On October 29th, 1944, the *Herald* reported, “Lieut. Col. Robert V. (Bill) Bowler, 36, of 3025 Meridian Street, listed as missing since the fall of Corregidor May 7, 1942, is alive and in good health, and is probably leading a band of Philippine guerrillas on the island of Mindanao.”

And then on the 1st of August, 1945, the *Bellingham Herald* reported, “In the opinion of Colonel Robert V. Bowler, just back from the Philippines, the war with Japan will not be over before November of 1946.

“Colonel Bowler was flown from Mindanao Island where he spent more than three years directing guerrilla warfare, to Leyte and returned with the American forces that recaptured Mindanao last April 17. Since then he has been in Manila. It is his considered opinion that there is a long war with Japan still ahead.”

The article went on with extensive quotes outlining the youngest Bowler’s guerrilla activities while being surreptitiously supplied with weapons, munitions, medical supplies and the like by American submarines.

While at least another year of war was the opinion of most military planners, just days later the August 6th, 1945 “*Final Fireside Edition*” of the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* carried the banner headline “*Terrific Atomic Bomb From Hanford Is Unleashed Upon Japanese Nation.*” Along with the destruction of Hiroshima, President Truman sent this message, “*If they do not now accept our terms, they may expect a rain of ruin from the air the like of which has never been seen on this earth.*”

On August 9th the *Spokesman-Review* headlined, “*Atomic Bomb Hits Nagasaki.*”

After a few more days of quibbling, the Japanese accepted unconditional surrender, and on Wednesday morning, August 15th, 1945, the *Review* headlined, “*Truman Orders Japanese Stop War at Once on All Fronts Following Complete Capitulation.*”

In the same issue, President Truman was quoted as saying, “*Ladies and gentlemen, this is a great day. This is the day we have been looking for since December 7, 1941. This is the day when Fascism and police government ceases in the world. This is the day for the democracies. This is the day when we can start on our real task of implementation of free government in the world.*”

On the 10th of October, 1945, the *Oak-*

land Tribune announced, “Three Army officers well-known in Metropolitan Oakland who had been imprisoned by the Japanese were listed as passengers aboard transports that docked inconspicuously in San Francisco today amid the excitement of the arrival of units of the Third Fleet which played a major role in their liberation.”

One of the arriving ships was “*The Storm King from Manila and Honolulu.*” The article went on to say said ship, “had brought back, 1,385 passengers, among them 402 liberated Yank soldiers, 16 liberated American civilians, and eight Norwegian nationals.” One of the soldiers was “Col. Louis J. Bowler, anti-aircraft artillery expert captured at Corregidor.”

A bit later the article added, “Colonel Bowler, whose wife, Lilian, resides at the Leamington Hotel here, served as professor military science and tactics with the Alameda High School R. O. T. C. from 1936 to 1939, and in that period took an active part in civic affairs. He served as president of the Alameda Boy Scout Council. In late 1939 he was ordered to the Philippine Islands.”

Early in 1946 Louis Bowler retired from the Army and purchased a ranch 50 some miles northwest of Sacramento, California.

Colonel Bowler passed away on the 1st of May, 1971. His age, 81. His *Oakland Tribune* obituary noted that “During the desperate battle to hold Corregidor, Col. Bowler was wounded by shrapnel from an exploding shell that killed a number of his fellow soldiers.”

It also recorded, “During the course of his imprisonment he was in six different camps, the last at Mukden, Manchuria.”

The *Journal of the San Juan Islands* noted his passing in a short obit, adding that he was survived by “the widow, a sister, Mrs. Minnie

Carter of Friday Harbor, and brother, Col. Robert V. Bowler of Seattle.”

Louis’s ashes were laid to rest at Spokane’s Greenwood Memorial Terrace, 23 miles south of his once hometown of Clayton.

Records indicate that Louis’s wife, Lilian C. (Eves) Bowler passed away in Seattle on the 23rd of December, 1978. Her ashes were brought to Spokane for burial beside those of Louis.

Regarding Robert Vern Bowler, his obituary appeared in the May 10th, 1998 edition of the *Bellingham Herald*. It was noted that he was born on July 5th, 1907, at Medical Lake, Washington — the same summer his eldest brother was preparing to start his first year of teaching at Clayton. Robert’s wife, Lillian E. (Pierce) Bowler, passed away in Washington’s King County on the 25th of November, 1996. While Louis and wife left no children, Robert V. and wife left behind their one son, Stuart, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

A quotation appeared in Louis J. Bowler’s obituary, this from the May 2nd, 1971 issue of the *San Francisco Examiner*. It noted that Colonel Bowler, when looking back on his wartime experiences, reminisced, “I would not believe the half of it, if I had not been through it.” That would seem true of the entirety of his life, and the life of his youngest brother as well.

These gentlemen and their spouses have become little more than shadows within a past that grows more distant every day. What little time Louis and Lilian Bowler spent teaching at Clayton’s school was enough to blend them into our common history. Over the coming centuries this bit of common history will doubtless be lost. But not today.

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.

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hidden in the closet?*

*Maybe now's the time
to coax them out and take them
for a walk.*



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

Illustrations from "The Dinosaurs of North America," by Othniel Charles Marsh. 1896 edition.