

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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**WILLIAM HOPKINS SHORT**  
**FOUNDING FATHER OF DEER PARK WASHINGTON**  
By: **PETER COFFIN**

## AUTHOR'S NOTE

*(William Hopkins Short contributed so much to the beginnings of Deer Park I felt that his story should be told in more detail than has been available to date. Most of the material in this manuscript has been taken from his son's manuscript "From Whence We Came" and I have used the material from that manuscript that helps detail his father's life.)*

## INTRODUCTION

William Hopkins Short organized a sawmill firm, Short and Crawford, with his brother-in-law George Crawford in 1889. They rented a portable sawmill and set it up on a siding of the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad about 20 miles north of Spokane to cut ties for the railroad. The siding had been named Deer Park by the railroad surveyors for the park like setting in the trees that contained so many deer.

The saw mill was set up in an area that contained a few rough board buildings and a few homesteaders. There was an early store that stocked necessary supplies for the homesteaders and became Kelly's store. There were not enough workers to run the sawmill every day so a few days were spent logging and accumulating logs so the mill

would have a supply to cut into ties and lumber for shipping and selling. Because of this labor shortage William Short built a boarding house so the nearby homesteading farmers could take their noon meal at the boarding house and that other laborers had a place to stay.

From this start the small settlement of Deer Park siding grew into the town of Deer Park. It is interesting that there are very few things named for William Hopkins Short. The only thing named for Mr. Short, that I am aware of, is the stretch of the road north from the end of North Avenue in northwest Deer Park to the Gardenspot Grange. Short Road continues South as far as Staley Road. Crawford Street is named for his brother-in-law who was in the area for three years!

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Free — Take One

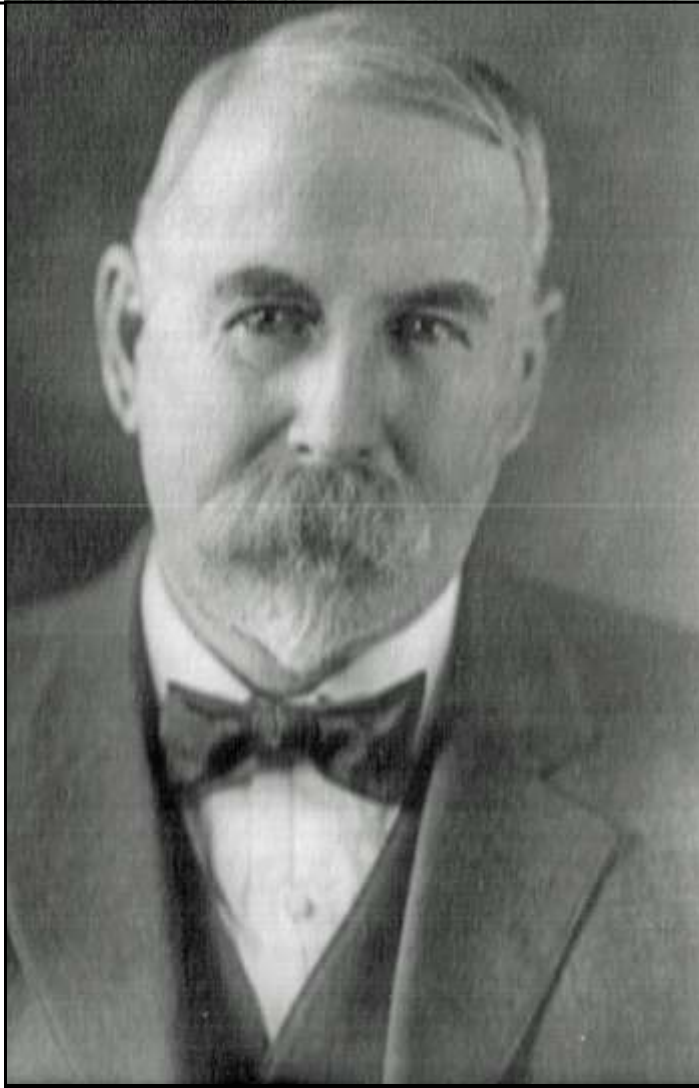
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Many other Deer Park institutions, such as parks and cemeteries were either donated or organized by Short or his family.

### **THE EARLY YEARS**

William Hopkins Short was born in Gouverneur, New York on October 21, 1863, the first child of William Allison Short and Ruth Sarah Hopkins. His parents were married on January 1, 1863. His father was an engraver for the Tiffany Company in New York City that had moved to upstate New York. He was a skilled engraver and Tiffany sent special engraving projects to him for his special touch. His mother was deeply religious (her son William Hodges Short used the word puritanical to describe her), and very strong willed. Her mother had died when she was seventeen so she had to take care of her seven brothers and sisters and was unable to attend Mount Holyoke College as she had hoped.

In 1875 or 1876 William Allison and Ruth Sarah were separated and Ruth Sarah took her four children to Minnesota to be near two brothers. At this time William H. was thirteen years old. The United States census indicates that she and three surviving children; William H., Emma A., and Gertrude P. were living in Morristown, Minnesota, in June 1880. A brother George died from diphtheria in early 1880. The Census listing indicates William



**Figure 1: The photograph of William Hodges Short from the Open Door Congregational Church library wall.**

H. was a “laborer” and his son indicates he worked in both saw mills and flour mills in Minnesota.

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**Figure 2: A photograph of the first Short boarding house in the future Deer Park. William Short is in the first row with his arms folded and a hat on his lap, his wife, Florence is to his right with the long white apron. (Lawrence Zimmerer Photograph Collection)**

kane Falls mill could provide. Spokane was rebuilding after the fire and ties were needed for building the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad. In addition the railroad wanted to sell the timber from its land along the right-of-way. The result of these needs resulted in a three way deal whereby WH Sr. and George Crawford organized a saw mill operation to buy timber from the railroad, saw it into lumber (and ties) to supply the Washington Mill Company with the lumber that they needed. In the summer of 1889 the company Short and Crawford was formed and they rented a portable saw mill to set up along a siding of the railroad named Deer Park.

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## **A NEW BEGINNING IN THE WEST**

William Hopkins Short (WH Sr.) moved to Spokane in early 1889 at the urging of his mother's brother, Brayton Hopkins, who had settled on Peone Prairie northwest of Spokane Falls. The rest of his family would move to the Spokane area a few months later. The family now included his mother, his sister Gertrude, Gertrude's husband George Crawford and their daughter Ruth. His sister Emma remained in Minnesota to finish her schooling.

WH Sr. got a job with the Washington Mill Company in Spokane Falls and rapidly gained the confidence of the partners owning the operation. The company needed more lumber than its Spo-

## **LIFE IN DEER PARK**

The Short family has many letters that were written in the 1890-1891 period that describe the primitive living conditions in early Deer Park. In one letter written in the summer of 1890 it was noted that WH Sr. had walked seven miles to the Wild Rose Church to attend Sunday school. Shortly thereafter, on August 17, 1890, the first religious service was held in Deer Park in the newly constructed Short house. It was new, incomplete and measured twelve by twelve feet. By November 1891 a Congregational Minister, Reverend Walters, came to Deer Park to help organize a Congregational Church. Four members of the Short family (WH Sr., Sarah R., George and Gertrude Crawford) along with nine other people signed as charter members.

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In January 1891 the firm of Short and Crawford purchased the rented portable sawmill and the surrounding real estate. Business was good in 1891 and 1892 and by June 1892 a new mill was in operation with a larger carriage cutting long building timbers, new boilers and a more efficient gang edger. Earlier in February 1892 WH Sr. became supervisor of the Washington Mill Company's Spokane and Deer Park operations. George Crawford was made manager of the Deer Park mill.

The new management was modified by the death of Gertrude (Short) Crawford shortly after the birth of Agnes her second child. Several months later her husband, George, was called to Minnesota to care for his stroke stricken father. George did not return to Deer Park and the burden of managing the Deer Park mill fell on WH Sr. After this, WH Sr. spent half his time in Spokane and half in Deer Park taking care of Washington Mill Company business. It was during this time, in 1892, that the new boarding house was built.



**Figure3: The “new” Short boarding house that was built in 1892. This picture was taken near 1900.**  
*(Congregational Church Photograph Collection)*

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WH Sr. and his family had helped found the Congregational Church in Deer Park and in early 1895 plans were drawn up for a proper church building. The first church in Deer Park was dedicated on March 29, 1896 on Short property south of the boarding house and east of the mill site.

Later in 1896, on July 28<sup>th</sup> WH Sr. married Florence Louise Hodges a teacher whom he met in Spokane. After a few months in Deer Park the couple moved to Spokane to be nearer his work with the Mill Company. On June 11, 1897, William Hodges Short is born and on March 6, 1902, Gertrude Louise Short is born. In the spring of 1898 the Short family moved back to live on the second floor of the boarding house.

The period from 1897 to 1902 saw much growth for the company. Lands west of the mill were developed for lumber drying and storage and an area along Dragoon Creek was fenced for horse pasture. The company was buying as many logs from local homesteaders as it could as the farmers cleared their land to conserve its own supply. More timberland was being purchased as it came on the market as well as a small sawmill at Newport, Washington. Evan Enoch, who had married one of WH Sr.'s cousins moved to Newport to manage the new purchase. Frank Reed, Emma Short's husband, who had been the head sawyer at the Deer Park mill was moved to Milan, Washington to manage a new mill at West Branch after the Mill Company purchased a pine stand in the Little Spokane River valley.



**Figure 4: The first Church in Deer Park. The early Congregational church finished in 1896 faced west and Railroad Avenue. (Congregational Church photograph Collection)**

In 1902 WH Sr. left the Washington Mill Company and organized the Standard Lumber Company with his sister Emma Reed. Trustees of the new company were: W. A. Short, E. A. Reed, E. Enoch, B. Lewis, and B. A. Hopkins. Evan Enoch and B. A. Hopkins were local homesteaders in Deer Park in 1890 and had been associated with WH Sr. since that time.

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**Figure 5: The Washington Mill Company Mill perhaps in 1900. The 1896 Congregational Church is on the right and the 1892 Short boarding house is on the left. (Lawrence Zimmerer Photograph Collection)**

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In the spring of 1903 the mill built in 1892 burned. The lumber yard and other buildings were saved and the mill was rebuilt on the same site. Logs for milling at the new mill were hauled from more and more distant locations. During winter months logs were hauled to the mill on sleds and stock piled near the mill for milling in the summer. These sleds (that were impractical to use in

the summer) and horse and ox drawn wagons could not haul enough to keep the mill running. By 1907 the distance had become so big that WH Sr. purchased a three wheeled steam traction engine nicknamed “Old Buck” to haul the logs from the woods to the mill. Three wheeled trailers were built to carry the logs behind the steam traction engine. Over time Old Buck proved to be inefficient and uneconomical needing a nearly ideal road to haul the trailers and their loads.



**Figure 6: The inside of the Washington Mill/Standard Lumber Mill sometime in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Note the two circular saws that cut the lumber from the log. Ernest DeVoe is the sawyer and Billy Mix and John Hickey are on the carriage. (Lawrence Zimmerer Photographic Collection)**

*(Continued on page 663)*



**Figure 7: Old Buck hauling a string of three wheeled trailers loaded with logs. (Hazelmeyer Photograph Collection)**

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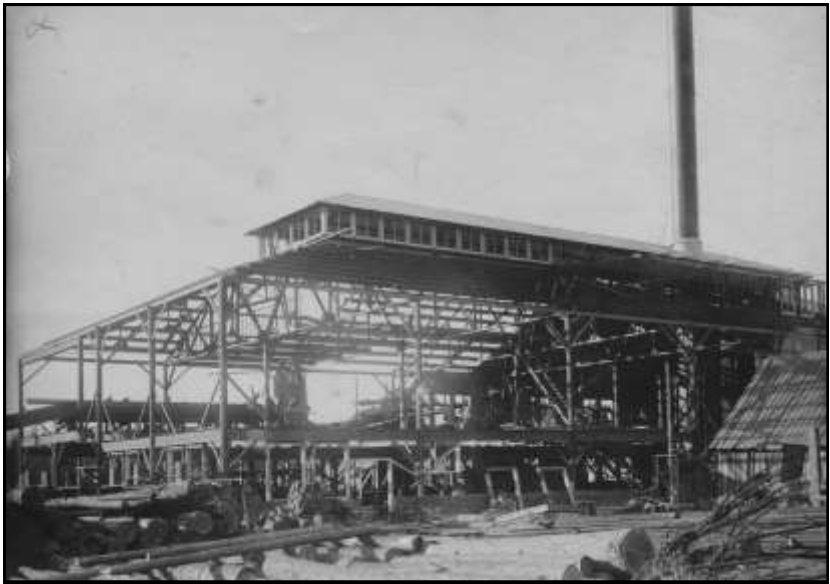
During April of 1904 Florence Louise Short died of complications of a pregnancy. She was buried in the Catholic Kelly Cemetery as it was the only one near Deer Park. WH Sr. was left with a young son and a baby daughter.

By 1908 the Arcadia Orchard Company was finishing the irrigation system for their apple orchard operation. Part of that irrigation system was a holding reservoir created by damming Dragoon Creek northwest of Deer Park. The dam was constructed of timber framing filled with dirt. In 1910 WH Sr. built his third sawmill in Deer Park on the eastern bank of this reservoir using it as the mill pond to keep the logs moist to re-

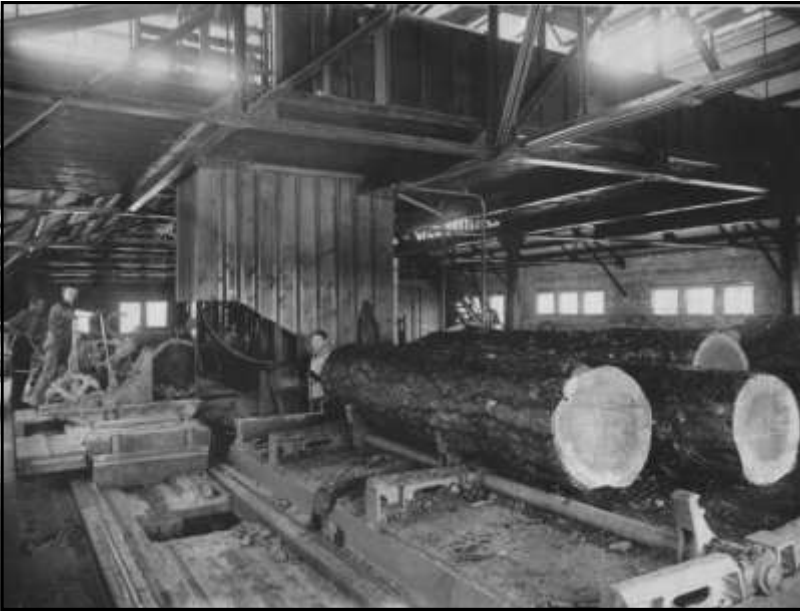
tain their quality. The new mill was built with a steel frame and brick walls. The electrically run machinery was the latest available and the new band saw replaced the old circular saw operation in the first two mills he built.

In 1913 WH Sr. decided to build a standard gauge railroad north from Deer Park to haul logs to the mill from a stand of white pine timber about 4 to 6 miles north of Deer Park. This railroad became the Deer Park Central. Business was very brisk with the demand for pine lumber for house building in Deer Park, pine lumber for flumes and trestles for the Arcadia Orchard Company, timbers of larch for building rafters and white pine planks to be shipped to Michigan to be made into matches. During this period WH Sr. took a business trip to Minnesota and New York.

During the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century WH. Sr. was active in civic affairs. In 1908 the Congregational Church was remodeled with his planning



**Figure 8: W. H. Short's new mill under construction in 1909. (Congregational Church Photograph Collection)**



**Figure 9: The new Clark Brothers band saw mill in the new mill. Note the size of the logs on the deck! (Congregational Church Photograph Collection)**

(Continued from page 663)

and help. The bell tower and the entry were moved from the west side of the church to the east side facing Deer Park's Main Avenue. In the same year he donated the land for the Woodland Cemetery and moved his wife Florence to it. Burials in the earlier, somewhat remote first Deer Park Cemetery southwest of town were also moved to both the Woodland and Kelly (St. Mary's) cemetery at the same time.

On July 28, 1911, William Hopkins Short married Miss Cora Chadbourne who had lived on Wild Rose Prairie

of \$345,000 in debt and the remainder in deferred stock. Leuthold and Wilson immediately



**Figure10: The Onion Creek mill near Kane, Washington that William Hopkins Short moved his second mill machinery to north of Colville near Northport, Washington. (Congregational Church Photograph)**

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changed the name to the Deer Park Lumber Company. A lawsuit was brought by Deer Park Lumber (and Leuthold and Wilson) against Standard Lumber (and Short) claiming that the timberland was short approximately 13,000,000 board feet of lumber. There was a cross suit by Short against Leuthold and Wilson which made claims about the considerations in the original sale. The dispute reached the Washington State Supreme Court which finally declared that neither side was due any money outside the original contract and that each party was responsible for their own legal costs. The Deer Park Lumber Company continued to operate until the 1950s when it was sold to Potlatch Corporation. In his last years WH Sr. continued to make contracts to deliver logs along the Little Spokane River and to a new sawmill on Onion Creek near Northport, Washington.

In March 1917, WH Sr. offered two tracts of land for a Deer Park Tourist Park. At that time Tourist Parks in small towns were being promoted as encouraging the tourist industry. Earlier Frank Reed, WH Jr.'s brother-in law offered a "prime site" for a tourist park but the Commercial Club let the offer slide. It would take until 1922 for the city to formally acquire Short's Dragoon Creek site for Deer Park's "Tourist Park"

## CONCLUSION

William Hopkins Short's life came to an end in service to the church for which he was a charter member. On December 21, 1930, he had left his home at 5:00 AM to light a fire in the boiler of the Congregational Church. He suffered a cerebral hemorrhage as he was trying to open the door to the church and fell to the floor of the church's porch. He was found by Miss Marion Rice at 8:30 AM as she came to the church to complete some Christmas decorations. I do not think that there is a single individual in Deer Park's history

that has contributed as much to the community as he had.

## REFERENCES

Anon., W. H. Short Victim of Paralysis Stroke: 1930: Deer Park Union December 25, 1930, front page.

Short, W. H., From Whence We Came: 1971: Unpublished Manuscript, 66 p. with a 3 p. appendix.

Washington State Supreme Court: Standard Lumber v. Deer Park Lumber Co., 104, Washington 84.

## TIMELINE APPENDIX

- 1863 William Hopkins short born in Gouverneur, New York, October 21
- 1875-1876 Short family moves to Minnesota
- 1889 William Hopkins Short moves to Spokane, and to Deer Park, forms Short and Crawford to saw lumber
- 1890 (?) First boarding house built
- 1891 WH Sr. helps organize the Deer Park Congregational Church
- 1892 New larger mill built in Deer Park; WH Sr. becomes supervisor of Washington Mill Company operations in Spokane and Deer Park
- 1892 Gertrude Short Crawford dies on September 8
- 1892 New boarding house built
- 1893 WH Sr. vacations and tours eastern United States

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| 1896      | Congregational Church building dedicated on March 29                                      | 1913 | WH Sr. builds the Deer Park Central Railroad north to the timber   |
| 1896      | William Hopkins Short marries Florence Louise Hodges on July 28                           | 1913 | Late in the year WH Sr. is in debt in excess of \$345,000 and shows prospective buyers his mill, timber and railroad property  |
| 1897      | William Hodges Short is born on June 11   | 1914 | WH Sr. sells Standard lumber, timber lands and the Deer Park Central Railroad to W. Leuthold and R. Wilson but remains in the lumber business  |
| 1902      | Gertrude Louise Short born on March 6   | 1914 | Lawsuit is brought against Short alleging the timber land he sold was short over 13,000,000 board feet   |
| 1902      | Standard Lumber Company organized on April 17   | 1917 | WH Sr. offers his Dragoon Creek acreage or a tract west of the second saw mill to the City of Deer Park for a “Tourist Park”   |
| 1903      | Second Deer Park mill burns   | 1918 | After Short counter sues Deer Park Lumber the Washington State Supreme Court decides neither party will recover costs in that court because Deer Park Lumber had cruised the amount of the timber before the sale finalized and was aware of how much timber was being sold. |
| 1904      | Florence Louise Short dies of childbirth complications in April                           | 1922 | Finally Deer Park approves a \$100 down payment of \$900 total cost to purchase the Dragoon Creek acreage for a “Tourist Park”   |
| 1907      | Old Buck the steam traction engine purchased  | 1930 | William Hopkins Short dies on the porch of the Congregational Church on Dec 21   |
| 1908      | City of Deer Park organized   |      |  |
| 1908      | Short donates Woodland Cemetery and it is dedicated on March 16                           |      |  |
| 1908      | Arcadia Orchard Company dams Dragoon Creek for an irrigation reservoir                    |      |  |
| 1909      | The newly remodeled Congregational Church is dedicated on September 12-13                 |      |  |
| 1909-1910 | Short builds his third Deer Park mill on the east side of the Arcadia Orchard’s reservoir |      |  |
| 1910      | WH Sr. goes on a business trip to Minnesota and New York                                  |      |  |
| 1911      | William Hopkins Short marries Cora Chadbourne on July 28                                  |      |  |
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## ALVA EICKMEYER'S HISTORY

By Florene Eickmeyer Moore



**2nd Lieutenant Alva Eickmeyer**  
**Army Air Corps**  
**1941–1944**

This is the story of the World War II pilot who survived when his airplane was shot down over Belgium but died in the crash of a military transport plane!

Alva Avon Loyell Eickmeyer was born on Novem-

ber 18, 1917, to Henry & Bessie (Barber) Eickmeyer, on their Wild Rose Prairie Farm (north Spokane County, Washington state.) He was the fifth of six sons. At the time of his birth, his eldest brother, Adair Laverne, was 8½ years old. His other brothers, Louis Lorraine, Andrew Kenneth, and Viril Cyrille were ages 7, 4½ & 3. Youngest brother, Henry Merwin, was born when Alva was about 2 ½.

Times were hard on the farm, feeding 6 growing boys with wild game, potatoes, grain, chickens and a vegetable garden. Bessie's younger sister, Edith, offered to help by taking one boy to live with her in Riverside, California, and educate him through high school and college. So, in 1931, Alva went to live with Aunt Edith & Uncle Gus Byrn. They were both high school teachers, she in Home Economics and he in Wood Shop, with no children of their own. Photos that survive show Al studying by the fireplace and receiving a visit from his brother Viril.

In 1935, Henry, Bessie & Merwin drove to Riverside to attend Alva's High School Graduation. Photos show a family reunion, then, with Bessie's sisters, her mother, Sarah, and several cousins. Al's brother Lorraine (aka Ray) lived then in Alameda, California, and he also came to Riverside for the graduation and reunion.

After 2 years of college, Al enlisted in the Army National Guard on March 3, 1941, from San Bernardino, CA. He was 71 inches tall and weighed

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136 pounds, at age 23. The enlistment record lists his occupation as “automatic telephone system maintenance man.”

In 1944, Alva was listed as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps and a pilot of the Lockheed P-38 Lightning.

Alva married Margaretta L. Boyne at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, on December 19, 1942. She was a US Army Nurse, soon sent to the Pacific, while Al was sent to service in Europe. It is unknown if they ever saw each other again. His family never met her.

In September 1944, Al was serving with the Army Air Corps 485 Fighter Squadron, 371 Fighter Group based near Florennes, Belgium. His assignment was to “strafe enemy columns” and on his fourth mission, September 3, (about 4 p.m.) 3 miles east of Nivelles, Belgium, his P-38 was shot down by the enemy from 800 – 1000 feet (altitude). The left engine was in flames and the plane exploded on crashing. Al’s parachute opened and he was not injured. The plane was “badly burned and broken up into small pieces.” He avoided being taken prisoner by the Germans and was helped by Mr. and Mrs. Emile Philippon of Bois de Nivelles, Belgium. “I was aided and hidden at the home of these people for 3 days and was given every possible assistance.” [Details are from the report Alva filed on September 11.]

“An English liaison plane made a covert landing near his hiding place and flew him to safety in Brussels, which had just been liberated by the British. Eickmeyer was probably the first American to enter the city. He made it back to his squadron three days later.” [Quote is from “History of the 370<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group” written by Jay Jones.]

Apparently, Al was soon sent to London to file

reports and then sent home on furlough in a few weeks. The secret report we now have, contains pages of restrictions, signed by Alva, as he agrees not to talk about his evasion from capture, etc. He was later transported to Ft. Lewis, Washington. Unknown how he traveled across Washington state, but we know he stopped in Wenatchee, in his uniform, to see his eldest brother Adair’s family, wife Molly & daughters Margie and Carol. That may have been about October 21. By Sunday, October 23, he was at home with his parents.

The *Deer Park Union*, dated October 26, 1944, in the “Wild Rose” column, by our neighbor, Mrs. L. G. Hazard writes “Mr. and Mrs. Henry Eickmeyer were pleasantly surprised Sunday morning to find their son Alva had arrived home during the night. Second Lieutenant Eickmeyer has just returned from Belgium where his plane was shot down behind enemy lines. He was a member of a fighter squadron. He will be in the states for three months but will only be home for about two weeks. He visited his brother, Adair, and family at Wenatchee on his way home from Fort Lewis.”

Later, Al and his dad drove to Chelan, Washington, took the boat up Lake Chelan to Holden, (a little mining town above Lake Chelan,) and visited another brother, Viril, and his family for a few days. His wife, Gerry, remembers them playing chess, hour after hour, presumably while Viril was at work at the copper mine. They may have played with Viril’s children, Nancy and Viril, Jr., and visited Viril’s and Al’s cousin, Mont Chadbourne, who also worked at the Holden mine, as a welder.

Al would have spent time with his parents, enjoyed some home-cooked meals, and visited with his brothers Andy and Merwin, who still lived on the farm, as well as Merwin’s wife Arlys and their

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daughter, Marilyn. (Merwin & family lived in a smaller home on the same farm.)

While home on furlough, Al went out to Galena Army Air Force Base and checked out a rifle, for target practice. His target was a deer. The *Deer Park Union* report, on November 9, 1944, says “Alva Eickmeyer left Tuesday to report to California after his visit at home. He got his venison while here.” His mother probably cooked and canned the venison.

Then Al flew out of Galena on a military flight to California, visited brother Ray, in Alameda, and his wife Mary Ann and son Dennis. Then reported to duty. He was flying from Hamilton field, Long Beach, California to Rosecran’s Field, St. Joseph, Missouri in a C-47 cargo plane, but that airplane crashed!

On November 15, 1944, a *Spokesman-Review* article (byline Long Beach, Calif., Nov. 14) read: “The Sixth ferrying group, army air transport command, announced today the names of 11 persons killed last Saturday night when a C-49 (*sic*) cargo plane crashed on a snow-drifted slope of Strawberry peak. The dead included Lt. Alva Eickmeyer; son of Henry Eickmeyer, Deer Park, Wash.”

Merwin had just returned from the hospital (appendicitis) when the telephone call came to tell of Alva’s death. His parents were away, visiting a neighbor. Merwin had to tell his parents the news.

The following is from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s report about the November 12, 1944, search for a downed “C-47 #6143, with thirteen aboard, enroute from Hamilton Field.”

“On 11-11-44, a flash had been seen in the vicinity of Lake Hughes approximately 8:15 PM.” The report gives great detail about the search for and discovery of the crash site and use of 3 ambulances to remove the two injured and the eleven bodies over the next 2 days. The list of nine dead confirms

that this is the crash in question.

The November 23<sup>rd</sup> issue of the *Deer Park Union* reports: “Funeral services were held at the Wild Rose church Monday afternoon for Lt. Alva Eickmeyer, who was killed in a plane crash in California on his way to report to duty after his furlough at home. He was born and raised at the family home on the prairie and would have been 27 years old last Friday. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, of the U.S. Army Nurses corps overseas; his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Eickmeyer, and five brothers, Adair of Wenatchee, Loraine of Alameda, Calif., Viril of Holden, Wash., and Andrew and Merwin at the home. Interment was in the Wild Rose cemetery. Alva entered the service four years ago, attended officer candidate school and trained pilots until recently when he was sent to England. On his fourth mission over Europe he was shot down behind the enemy lines in Belgium. He worked his way back to our lines and was sent home for a rest. The sympathy of the community is extended to the family.”

Alva’s youngest cousin, Bill Eickmeyer, remembers attending the funeral with his family and seeing the flag-draped coffin and Alva’s family at the little church.

The Wild Rose Cemetery contains Alva’s military tombstone with the following words: “ALVA AVON EICKMEYER - WASHINGTON - 2 LIEUT. AIR CORPS - NOVEMBER 18. 1917 - NOVEMBER 11, 1944” His family gravestone says “ALVA A. EICKMEYER - 1917 – 1944 with the wings symbol between the dates.

*Written by Florene Eickmeyer Moore, daughter of Merwin Eickmeyer, and niece of Alva. 8/12/2012.*

*The secret military report and Fighter Group History referred to were located by Mr. Nicolas Clinaz of Florennes, Belgium, and then emailed to me. Thank You!*

## C/DPHS at 2012 CLAYTON DAY

Bill Sebright and Sharon Clark pose with Howard Justice at our Clayton Day booth at the Clayton Grange. This year we held our exhibit at Clayton Grange in the basement, rather than at Clayton School. We were closer to the quilt exhibit upstairs and right next to the food. We seemed to be right in the middle of the action although we didn't have all the exhibit space that the school provided.



## Clayton/ Deer **Park** Historical Society Minutes, September 8, 2012

In attendance: Mary Jo Reiter, Don Reiter, Mark Wagner, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Bill Sebright, Sharon Clark, Grace Hubal, Betty Burdette, Marilyn Reilly, Duane Costa, Roxanne Camp, Karen Meyer, Florene Moore, Tom Costigan, Marie Morrill, and David Benscoter.

Society President, Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. 1) Marilyn Reilly called letting us know that the Koehler family had deeded over the old Williams Valley School to the Board of Fire Commissioners of Stevens County Fire Protection District No. 1 ( SCFPD1). Copies of the bid process for sale and removal were passed around. Wally sent out an email describing the situation. He received one reply. 2) We received a box of history material from Barb Erickson Bogdan and Paul Erickson. It contained great information on the history of the Deer Park Mill, Arcadia Orchards (a couple original contracts!), obits for Bob Herendeen and Genora Follevaag and many other things. A big THANK YOU to Barb and Paul! 3) Welcome to new member Cassie Hill. She joined the Society during the Clayton Fair. 4) Also at the Clayton Fair, Anne and Mel Molstad gave us information on the history of the Sons of Norway Lodge in Deer Park during the 1940s. Bill passed the information around for all to see. 5) The next Heritage Network meeting will be on Monday, September 17th at 9:30AM at the Clayton School.

Treasurer, Mark Wagner reported that there is \$3015 in the main checking account. And a \$17.00 service charge (treasurer will cover out of pocket) Deposits \$40.00 from fair and \$90 from Brickyard Days. Activity included \$90 to Taffy for eagle maintenance, \$60 for Grange Rental and \$13 Deer Park Printing for Grand Marshall signs. Maintenance Web hosting account had \$206.41 in funds with a \$10.95 in activity monthly hosting fee.

Grace Hubal, Secretary reported: 1) She sold two Reports: Volumes 1 and 2. The lady who got the Standing Watch CD found it to be educational and enjoyable.

Vice President, Pete Coffin reported that he: 1) has contacted the law firm of Wells St. John in Spokane about copyrighting the digital Arcadia Orchards Company film. He is presently waiting for their evaluation of his description of a possible copyright. 2) The Mortarboard may be copyrighted but this needs to be checked to see if laws covering copyright are being followed. The Reports plainly indicate they are copyrighted. Perhaps copies of both ought to be sent to the Library of Congress to confirm the copyright if this has not already been done. 3) Has visited the Spokane County Engineers basement Arcadia Orchard files again and copied horticulture maps

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as well as some engineering drawing. Horticulture maps include the following sections (or portions of) in Township 28N-42E, 1, 2, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35; in Township 29N-42E, 22, 25, T28N-R43E, 6, 7, Township 29N-R42E, 19, 26, 36. 4) Visited the MAC to review the archives of the Arcadia Orchards Fruit Growers Association for evidence of water problems but found none. He inquired about the possibility of trading the Arcadia Orchards film for some sort of break on **the use of the MAC's historical pictures**. There will be no chance of a trade. 5) Has digitized a large amount of original A. J. Kemp material covering the Blue Grouse Mountain tungsten mining district. Took a field trip to try to visit the mine site but was stopped by gated roads. 6) Has been assembling material on the Deer Park drag races from the digital Deer Park newspapers. In this context interviewed C. J. Justice who was one of the original organizers of the Inland Empire Timing Association who began the drag races. 7) As the new treasurer of the Inland Northwest Camaro Club he was surprised at the low cost of their liability insurance as compared to the Historical Society's premium. I have obtained a proposal from the same insurance firm that insures the Camaro Club for liability that would cost the Historical Society \$250 per year. 8) Has not had a response from KSPS people about using the Arcadia Orchard film and the Dr. John Fahey manuscript "Selling the Watered West" as a documentary film subject. 9) Gave the Mortarboard editor a manuscript and digital pictures for a paper titled Arcadia Orchards Company and Irrigation Water.

Print Editor, Sharon Clark reported: 1) The September 2012 Mortarboard, #53 was distributed. She shared a picture of her 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team. She will write down the names of the team so that we can put it in a future Mortarboard.

Webmaster Penny Hutten emailed her report: This month the only thing added to the website was the "Clayton Fair 2012" web page.

We plan to celebrate June's 100th DPHS Commencement with an All-School Reunion on July 27, 2013. Florene Moore talked about this reunion. She suggested that the celebration could be at the new high school in the common area or at the Deer Park City Hall where most of the graduating class pictures are located. There was much discussion. We encourage all DPHS graduates who plan to attend to bring their high school annuals to share. We are still looking for representatives from all classes to spread the word and get ideas for the all school reunion.

The last Friends of the Deer Park Library Book Sale this year will be on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Deer Park Auto Freight. Volunteers needed to help box up books the following Monday.

Marilyn Reilly reported that it would cost \$18,000 to move the Williams Valley School 1-1/2 miles. One person made a bid on the building but changed his mind when he found out that it was going to cost so much. It sounds as though the school may be there until the spring. A final gathering of old classmates was discussed at the School and the owners said that it would be okay. Betty Burdette mentioned that there were many gatherings in the past. She also said that she had gone to the Williams Valley School. It was mentioned that Luella Dow, Lorraine Ball, Fay Reilly, and Jim Reilly also graduated from there.

David Benscoter talked about the trees planted in the Arcadia Orchards. A field trip to different areas 1) East of Deer Park; 2) by Arcadia School; 3) Dick Purdy's property south of Deer Park; 4) The Hale property south of Purdy's; 5) The Harlan and Amy Helm property southwest of the high school) of the old orchards was planned; 6) We will meet at 11 AM on October 20 by the Arcadia Orchards sign at Arcadia School for the field trip.

The Clayton Fair and booth were discussed. Thanks to those who set up and those who manned the booth.

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Karen Meyer mentioned that the old Loon Lake School is planning an all school reunion the Sunday after Settlers Day, July 28, 2013.

Next meeting: Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 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

tion with their occupations and settlement in the Clayton/Deer Park Area

Gardenspot #278 Granges

**WANTED:** Any stories and photos of your family’s history in connec-

**WANTED:** Any stories and photos from Williams Valley #452 and

**WANTED:** Any information on the Williams Valley Grange Orchestra  
Contact: Ann Fackenthall, WVG

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Visit our New Web Site: [www.cdphs.org](http://www.cdphs.org)

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