

The C/DPHS meets at 9 a.m. every second Saturday of the month. Join us at the Clayton Drive-In, Clayton, Washington.
Visit our website at <http://www.cdphs.org>

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

Mortarboard

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Abraham Theodore Williams Williams Valley's Namesake

by

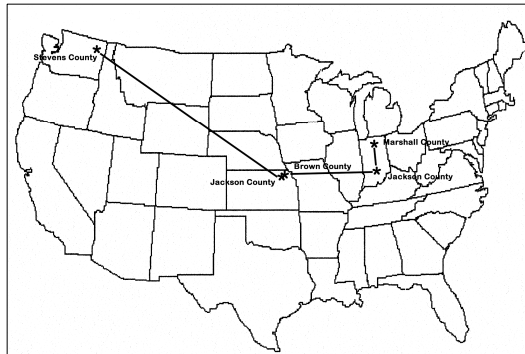
Pete Coffin

Williams Valley was named for an early pioneer of the area, Abraham Theodore Williams. He was an example of those who moved west for a better life and land ownership. He probably filed for a homestead in 1887 — that homestead located in the southeast quarter of Section 12-Township 28 North-Range 41 East Willamette Meridian due west of the present location of the Williams Valley Grange Hall.

Abraham Williams was born in September 1847 in Marshall County, Indiana, to Nehemiah and Mary (Studebaker) Williams. They were a farming family and by the census date of 1850 he had older sisters Catherine, Sarah, and a brother John. Another sister was born in 1852 according to a listing in an Ancestry.com family tree. By the 1860 census his family had moved west from Indiana to Lockusin, Brown County, in far northeast Kansas Territory. The same census records show that Abraham stayed behind in Howard County, Indiana, with a William Williams family.

Sometime in the early 1860s he had moved to Kansas near his parents in far northeastern Kansas Territory and, at age 17, had

enlisted in the Union Cavalry at Leavenworth, Kansas Territory, on February 28, 1864. He served as a private in Company H of the 16th Kansas Cavalry from March 6, 1864, to December 6, 1865. During this service his Company H was involved in the second battle of Lexington, the county seat of Lafayette County, Missouri, on October 19, 1864. Confederate forces led by Confederate General Sterling



Outline map of United States showing the migration of Abraham Williams from his birthplace in Indiana to his homestead in Stevens County, Washington.

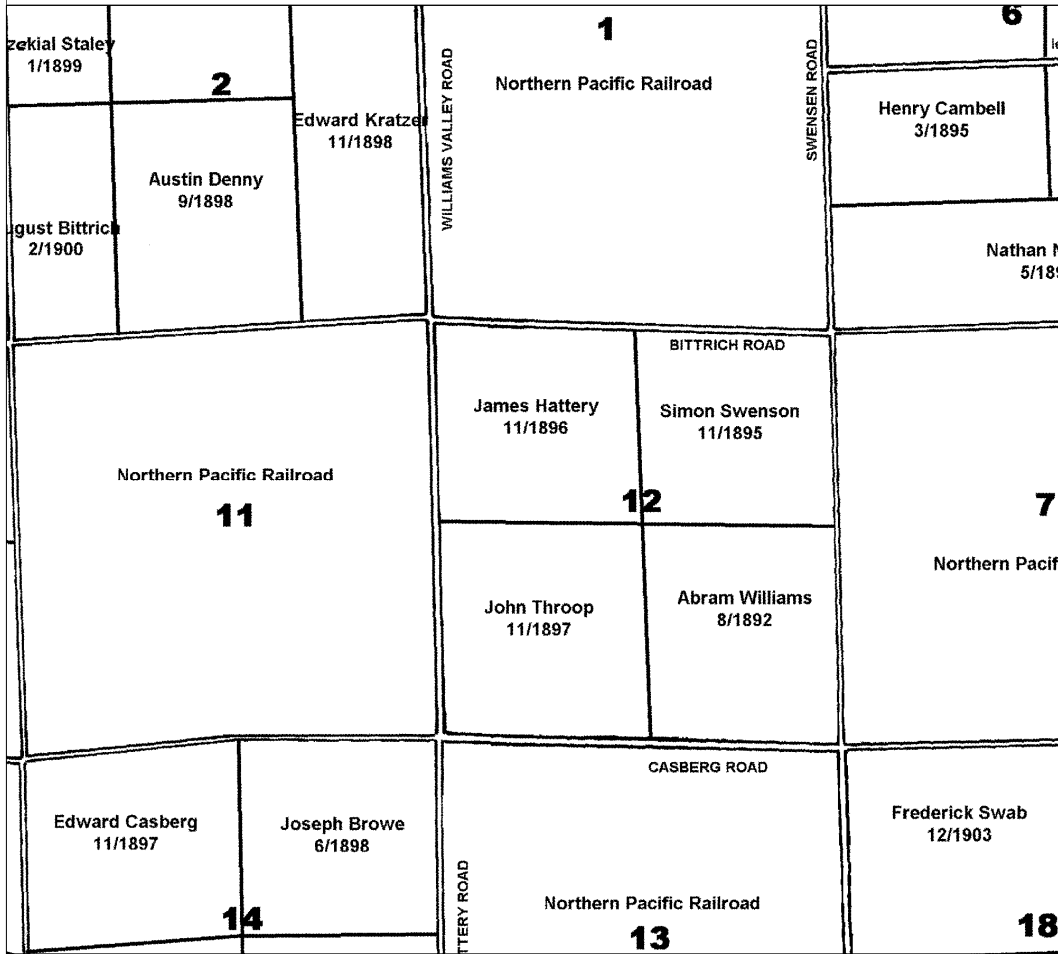
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Price were attempting to seize control of Missouri and were raiding Kansas, the Indian Territory, and northwestern Missouri. Union forces managed to defeat Price's army on October 21, 1864, and end significant Confederate operations in Missouri.

Census listings of 1870 show Abraham Williams farming near the town of Franklin, Jackson County, Kansas. This census lists he and a wife Lucy as having a personal worth of \$300, but not owning any real estate. Lucy

must have died soon after the census was taken as the Ancestry.com family tree shows him marrying Kate Rowena Fellows (9 years younger than Abraham) in 1874. In 1880 the census shows that he was farming outside Jefferson, Jackson County, Kansas. At that time he had a family composed of his wife Kate and children Carrie Varlinda (born July 1875), twins Mary Francis and John Albert (born in October 1872). His father Nehemiah and mother Mary were also living with him. An-

*A map of original homesteaders in the area around Abraham Williams homestead.
 The names Casberg, Bittrich and Staley all appear on present day road signs.*



Map by Pete Coffin.

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other child Alice Rowena was born in July 1883.

Abraham and his family must have moved to Washington between the birth of his daughter Alice in 1883 and when he applied for a Washington homestead patent in or before 1887. No records indicate how they moved to Washington, but many of the early settlers in the Williams Valley and Wild Rose areas arrived in wagons. The section in which he filed for homestead contained two other names that are familiar today as area road names. James F. Hattery (Hattery Road, now the southern extension of Williams Valley Road) received a patent on November 9, 1896, for the northwest quarter of Section 12-Township 28 North-Range 41 East, and Simon Swenson (Swenson Road) received a patent on December 26, 1895, for the northeast quarter of Section 12. The remaining southwest quarter of Section 12 was granted to John E. Throop on November 17, 1897.

The 1890 census was destroyed in a Washington DC fire, but one could assume that the Williams family lived on the homestead in Stevens County. The census of 1900 lists Abraham Williams his wife Kate and three daughters as residents of Spokane. According to his obituary in the January 5, 1912, Deer Park Union (*the Washington State Archives list his date of death as January 2nd*) he had moved to Spokane in 1894. Family tree information indicates that his son, John Albert died in 1893 and perhaps this was the

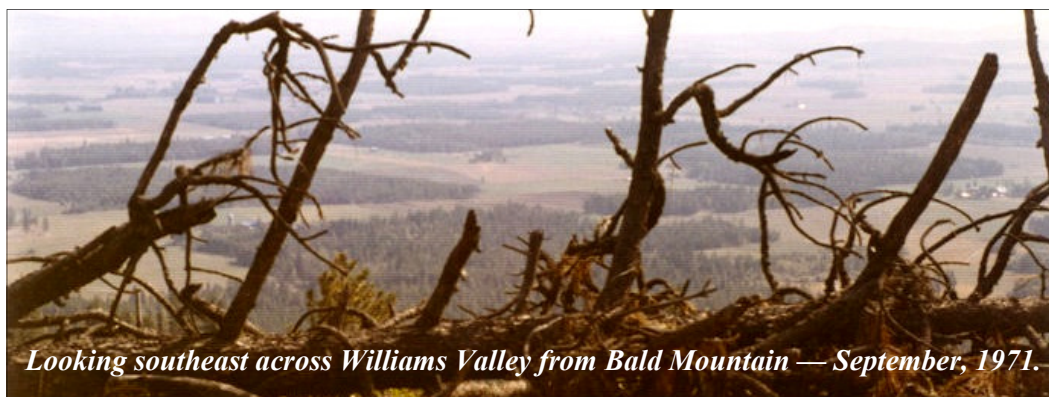
reason for the move to Spokane. A Polk's Directory listed his address at the northwest corner of 8th and Monroe in Spokane. The 1900 census listed his employment as a janitor in the Spokane County Courthouse. The 1912 obituary indicated that he had been the "cryer" (read bailiff) of Judge Buck's Superior Court sometime after the 1900 census listing.

Abraham's wife Katie died on July 31, 1907, and his health must have been in decline. A family tree in Ancestry.com lists his residence as being in the United States National Home for Disabled Soldiers in Sawtelle, Los Angeles County, California. The Deer Park Union front page obituary lists his address at the time of death as being at 222½ West Sprague in Spokane, so he must have moved back to Spokane from southern California.

His funeral arrangements were handled by the Reno Post of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic). His three daughters were listed as his survivors as Mrs. Carrie V. Beebe of Seattle, Mrs. Mary T. Germond and Alice R. Hammond of Spokane. Both he and his wife are interred in the Greenwood Memorial Terrace. He was interred in plot L-19 next to his wife in the Civil War Soldiers Memorial area. His Civil War Soldiers white limestone headstone is missing but his wife's headstone is present and Greenwood's records clearly show his burial site.

— end —

Photo by Wally Lee Parker



Looking southeast across Williams Valley from Bald Mountain — September, 1971.

The Deer Park Area's First Non-Native Visitor

by
Pete Coffin

The northwest portion of North America was subject to exploration by agents of Great Britain, the United States, and Russia in the period of time from 1795-1820. Regarding such, the Clayton-Deer Park Historical Society has been asked: "Who was the first non-native to visit the Deer Park area?"

Representing The Northwest Company and British interests, David Thompson explored the Columbia River and its headwaters from 1807-1812, making maps of the areas traversed. One of his maps shows that he passed through our area on route between the Pend Oreille River and Spokane House. This map, and notes from Thompson's journey, are located on pages 97 and 98 of Jack Nisbet's *The Matchmaker's Eye: David Thompson on the Columbia Plateau* — published by the Washington State University Press in 2005.

The dashed lines on my rendition of Thompson's map (facing page) indicate the Indian trails he traveled — or had been made aware of during his conversations with the area's Indians. The dashed line labeled "Kullyspell Road" was the route that he took from the Pend Oreille River to Spokane House in June of 1811. My estimation of the location

of Deer Park along that route is indicated with a star. Thompson states he arrived at Beaulieu's Brook (Dragoon Creek) at 10 AM on Friday, June 14, 1811.

It should be noted that a gentleman by the name of Jaco Finley had set up Spokane House near the confluence of the Spokane and Little Spokane Rivers prior to the summer of 1811, and was trading with non-native trappers before Thompson's visit. I have a very strong feeling that the beaver in Dragoon Creek (Beaulieu's Brook on Thompson's map) were being trapped by non-native individuals prior to David Thomson's June 1811 trip. However, said trappers remain nameless.

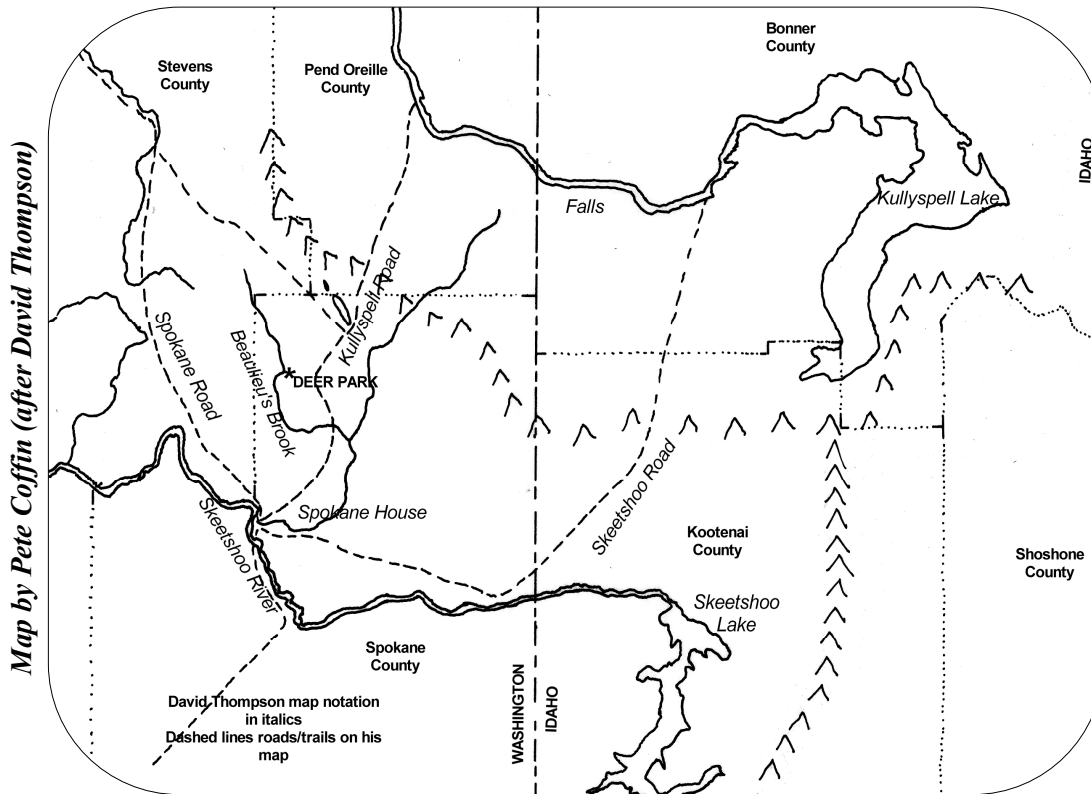
On May 25, 1808, Thompson recorded bridging Beaulieu's Brook by cutting down a large cedar tree. This can be confusing since this Beaulieu's Brook, as noted on page 64 of *The Matchmaker's Eye*, was located northeast of present day Bonners Ferry along the Moyie River. The gentleman named Beaulieu appears to have been a favorite voyager of Thompson's, since Thompson named several small streams in the northwest after him.

———— end ————

A sketch of the Rocky Mountains, by David Thompson.



*The map below is reproduced from a segment of one of David Thompson's maps.
The legends in italics are those appearing on the original map.
Non-italic lettering such as boundary lines are modern.
The dashed lines approximate Thompson's travels through the area.
And the "delta" figures are Thompson's indicators for mountain ranges.*



A sketch of the Rocky Mountains, by David Thompson.



*Minutes of the
Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society
— March 8, 2014 —*

In attendance: Sharon Clark, Wally Parker, Pat Parker, Betty Burdette, Lonnie Jenkins, Ella Jenkins, Lynn Wells, Allan Fackenthall, Peter Coffin, Judy Coffin, Mary Jo Reiter, Don Reiter, Roxanne Camp, Mark Wagner, Lorraine Ade, Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Marilyn Reilly, Sue Rehms, Duane Costa, Donald Ball, Grace Hubal, Bill Sebright, Marie Morrill, Sue Rehms, and Nancy Hartley.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported: 1) Jeff Lilly and Bill have been working on a plan to save Brickyard Day. Copies of the *Deer Park Gazette* and *Elk Sentinel* articles were passed around. There will be a meeting at the Pizza Factory March 24, 2014 at 6 PM for all those interested in saving Brickyard Day. 2) Bill received an email from Marilyn (Strong) Taylor. She has "a year book from *Deer Park for 1915*" that she would like to donate to the C/DPHS. It's surprising to hear that they even made one. He responded to her email, but has heard nothing yet. 3) On the March 27, 2014, at 7 p.m. meeting at the Masonic Hall in Deer Park, Chet Caskey with the assistance of Stan Wills & Gale Palmer (in uniform) will be giving a presentation on the *History of the American Flag*. Chet Caskey is president of the Westerners. The public is invited. 4) Vince Janson and Jerry Davis wanted to know if anyone knows about a floating dance floor at Deer Lake in the 1920s or 30s. Bill Loshbough's relatives supposedly owned it. Also does anyone remember a Volkswagen being driven on the Loon Lake ice in the 1960s? They said it went through the ice and is still at the bottom of the lake. 5) Bill passed around the Nov./Dec. 2013 issue of *Nostalgia*. It has an article on Starlit Stairway and Leslie Ann (DPHS Class of '66) her brother Gordon (DPHS Class of '72).

Society Treasurer, Mark Wagner reported: Regular checking account balance \$3,910.08. A check was written for \$200.00 for Eagle Maintenance, \$10.00 for incorporation filing. Deposits were \$170.00 The web hosting account had \$164.01. Withdrawals were \$10.95. Society dues were due in January. Please give them to Mark or mail them to CDPHS, Box 293, Clayton, WA, 99110.

Society Secretary Grace Hubal reported: 1) She sent a welcome to the Society card to Wey Simpson. 2) Sent thank you notes to Tom and Delores Gardner, Duane Costa, Billie Moe & family, Karen Richards, Anne & Richard Mertens, and Bill Sebright for donations in the memory of Warren Nord.

Society Vice President Pete Coffin reported: 1) He gave Editor Wally Parker a manuscript titled "*The Deer Park Area's First Non-Native Visitor*" with a self drafted map in place of one under copyright. 2) He will try to give Editor Wally Parker a biography manuscript describing Peter G. Kelly, one of the first businessmen in Deer Park.

Print editor, Wally Parker reported: 1) The March 2014 *Mortarboard* #71 was distributed. The articles included: *Frank Addison Reed* by Pete Coffin, *Is this a Rauch & Lang Electric Automobile?* by Wally Parker, and *A Note Regarding Houses Associated with Brayton Hopkins* by Pete Coffin. 2) Among the task currently being undertaken at Print Publications is the laying out of issue #18 of the *Collected Newsletters*. Hardcopies of said issue — combining *Mortarboards* 68, 69, 70, and 71 — "should" be available at the Society's April meeting. 3) As you've doubtless noticed, the *Mortarboards* have been undergoing cosmetic changes. Going forward, the basic framework of the *Collected Newsletters* will likely reflect those changes as well. These changes are intended to be evolu-

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tionary rather than revolutionary — and hopefully will result in a more intuitive reading experience. Observations and suggestions regarding such are invited. 4) As currently planned, one of the goals for the next *Mortarboard* will be to bring the various threads of ongoing correspondence up to date.

Society Webmaster, Marie Morrill reported: 1) With Penny's help, the February 2014 *Mortarboard* was posted. She hopes to be able to accomplish the task more easily in March.

Penny Hutten reported by email that the Westerners meeting will be at 6 PM, speaker at 7 PM on March 20, 2014, at the Airport Holiday Inn. Dinner is \$20 and reservations are required. Stan Wills will be speaking about "*Fred Timm's Stagecoach Station 1890s.*" Please call (509) 466-2439 by March 16th if you would like to attend. Stan will be part of the presentation on the *History of the American Flag* mentioned above. Penny is on her way to Las Vegas

Clayton Brickyard Day was discussed. There will be a meeting at the Pizza Factory on March 24, 2014 at 6 PM for all those interested in saving Brickyard Day. Pizza and soda will be provided. Pete moved that the CDPHS pay up to \$500 for pizza and soda. Sharon Clark seconded the motion. Betty Burdette suggested we set up a donations jar. After discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Nancy Hartley mentioned that there is a lot of advertising in Washington State for the Clayton Day Quilting at the Grange. It has been very successful every year. Lots of walk-ins between the Clayton Run, etc.

Peter Coffin brainstormed that Settlers' Day and Brickyard Days could combine since we are so close. It was discussed.

Mike Reiter reported that he had spoken to a Deer Park City Council member who saw last month's minutes in the *Mortarboard* regarding the Civic Center. The council member asked some questions of staff about operating costs, usage, and condition of the building. Mike believes that before a renovation of the building or the building of a complete new facility could take place, an interested group would have to bring it to the council and most likely a bond would have to be voted on by the people of Deer Park.

Betty Burdette mentioned that the Deer Park Settlers meeting is on March 17, 2014, at 4:30 PM at the Deer Park Ambulance office, which is located at the corner of Arnim and 1st in Deer Park. The Settlers dinner and auction was very successful.

Next meeting: Saturday, April 12, 2014, 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 AM.

The meeting minutes submitted by Grace Hubal, Secretary.

— end —

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

Bits of Chatter, Trivia & Notices All Strung Together

... *Joshua (Josiah) Luther Wallace* ...

On February 9th, society president Bill Sebright received the following email from Gary B. Ross. It's an inquiry regarding a gentleman that may have lived in the Clayton/Deer Park/Loon Lake area from the 1930s into

the 1950s, and about whom very little is known. Mr. Ross wrote ...

My older sister — a 1950 graduate of Deer Park High School now living in Spokane's Hillyard district — worked at Earl Mix's corner soda fountain in Deer Park way

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back when. She mentioned to me today that there was a black gentleman that would stop by Mix's to purchase the Sunday newspaper. He lived in Clayton somewhere, and she recalled his name as Luther Wallace. She went on to say that he was one of the nicest people she had ever met, and the first black person as well.

Does this name ring any bells with anyone?

Bill responded ...

I'm glad you brought that name up. There was a black man living in Clayton about a block west of the Clayton Community Church — over near Ole Wind's house. If I remember right, he drove a dark blue 1946 to '48 Buick.

One summer before I was born (before 1945) he helped my dad and another guy hay. The story is that everyone had sat down at the table for lunch, and Wallace was passing my brother Chet — just a baby then — over to dad. Chet's eyes got really big looking up at Wallace, and Wallace said something like, "Do I need to wash my face?"

Bill sent an email inquiry to several other C/DPHS members — to which your editor replied ...

I know the name, but I can't recall ever having seen Wallace. In fact, the first time I recall ever seeing a black person (I'd doubtless seen them before, I just can't recall) was at one of the afterhours adult baseball games play at the old Clayton schoolyard in the late 1940s or very early '50s. One of the visiting teams (probably from Spokane) was all black. I remember I was so mesmerized I just stared.

I do recall people talking about Wallace. I remember that because we had the same name. But his name was usually prefixed by a racial slur. This was the mid-20th century, so that's just the way it was.

My folks grew up in the south. I

know mom always told us that it wasn't a nice word to be using, and we shouldn't even if others around us were.

Society vice-president Pete Coffin pulled the following from various internet sources.

A review of United States Census data indicates that Luther Wallace led an interesting life. Because the census data is collected in 10 year intervals, there are gaps I can't fill. The census' recorded his birth in Michigan as during the 1870's, ranging from 1873 (1940 Census) to April 1877 (1900 Census). The 1880 Census listed him as the son of Samuel and Rose Wallace, part of a family of five then near Battle Creek, Michigan. His parents indicated they came from Canada.

By 1900 he was working as a "coachman" in Battle Creek, Michigan, married to a Eula (Harrison) Wallace, and had a son named Loran. He and Eula were living with her parents, the Arthur Harrison family. The son had been born in 1899.

Things in Mr. Wallace's family had changed by 1910. His wife's name is listed as "Bessie," but he is still a "coachman" at a private house in Battle Creek, Michigan. A search didn't find either Loran or a Eula Wallace. It's possible they had died.

By 1920 Mr. Wallace was still living in Battle Creek, Michigan, and working as a private chauffeur. His family was composed of his wife Bessie, son Edwin, daughter Renza, and a niece, W. Constance.

In 1930 Mr. Wallace was living in Cheney, Washington living with Joshua Mahaley (his brother-in-law), and employed as a farm laborer. No mention was made of any family although he listed himself as married. A search for a Bessie Wallace in Michigan found one of the proper age living in Kalamazoo, Michigan, an working as a servant. Whether or not this is Luther Wallace's wife is not certain.

The 1940 census lists Mr. Wallace as living in Loon Lake, Washington. He indicat-

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ed he was making his living by cutting fire wood, was married and owned his home. No other family members were listed.

There was only one family tree in Ancestry.com and it only listed Luther Wallace and his wife and child Loran, with no other family connections!

As a final, Bill Sebright received this from Eddie Kingrey.

Grandpa King and I delivered milk to his place. He lived alone in a small house in a row of houses a couple of streets south of Holcomb's tavern. As far as I remember, Wallace pretty much kept to himself. I don't recall him working. Maybe he worked at the brickyard ... I don't know.

I only spoke to him when I delivered milk, and he was always very kind and courteous to me. He was the only black man I saw until I joined the Air Force — except in Deer Park when a couple of black kids from Spokane visited the high school.

Anyone having something to add to this conversation is asked to write or call the society via the contacts provided at the end of this newsletter.

... **Tuffy Luhr passes** ...

As longtime readers of this newsletter may recall, a feature length essay titled *Tuffy's War* was published in the *Mortarboard* beginning in the January, 2009, issue, and continued on for the next five issues. Several years ago I posted a revision of that essay on my blog — *The Bogwen Report Online*. Based on a series of interviews with Mr. Luhr, *Tuffy's War* sketched the lives of Tuffy and his younger brother Orland. The youngest brother of the trio, Alan Berg, was instrumental in adding a slew of details for the revised, online version.

On the 28th of December, 2013, I received the following via the email address associated with my blog.

Cyrus Luhr wrote ...

I want to thank you for your biography of my grandfather, Tuffy Luhr. My father, David, was Tuffy Luhr's youngest son. I'm not sure if you've heard, but Tuffy passed away the day before yesterday (December 26).

*A few years ago my parents sent me print copies of your work in the *Mortarboard*. Well researched, thorough, and engaging, I've shared it with many people and am so thankful that you were able to record his story.*

Growing up, my grandfather never spoke of his experiences in World War II. He did share his memory of flares lighting up the night sky as he and his fellow troops crossed a river. He never went into more detail about that, but I recognized the incident in your work.

He never mentioned seeing a concentration camp, but we figured he must have. I remember him getting very upset once while discussing Holocaust deniers. He said something about having witnessed the cruelty of the Nazis and that it was impossible to deny the first-hand accounts of so many people. I was very moved by your account of his visit to Buchenwald.

I do recall a story about him having a very nice bottle of wine in his backpack when suddenly he was being shot at from a German pillbox. He hit the ground as bullets swept over him. Fortunately, the Germans were unable to lower the aim of the machine gun far enough to strike him, but they kept sweeping over him and shooting up his backpack. He remembers being very angry that his bottle of wine was not only destroyed, but that the wine was pouring down the back of his head. He didn't say much beyond that other than, "and the other guys swept around and got them."

He did keep a bullet-ridden blanket from that encounter. Unfortunately, it — along with some of this other WWII memorabilia — was stolen during a burglary in the late 1980s or early '90s.

I never thought I'd have an opportunity to learn more of his wartime experiences. He wasn't able to delve into them with us,

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and we respected that. That he was able to open up to you was a gift, and our entire family is extremely thankful.

In accordance with his wishes, my grandfather is being cremated soon. I believe a memorial service will be held in a few months in your area.

Thank you again for preserving the memory of my grandfather.

Cyrus asked if more print copies of the story were available. I replied ...

We do have copies of the revised edition available. It's formatted in an 8½ x 11 inch booklet with spiral binding. It has 49 numbered pages of text and photos — with the title, introduction, dedication, and acknowledgement pages extending the actual page-count to 56. The covers are coated cardstock. The print is 11 point Times New Roman laid out in double columns, making it a lot easier on older eyes than the 10 point the Mortarboard's are printed in.

This book contains the complete text of the revised version — all 29,000 words. It's part of a new effort by the society to collect the best of our previously printed materials and present them in large format single-topic or anthology volumes.

As a remembrance of your Grandfather, Print Publications is proposing the society forward a given number of copies for distribution among your family and friends. We'll have a firmer grasp on this after the next meeting of the society. If the society agrees to the idea — and to a specific number — I'll begin assembling the books immediately after.

I should explain that all society publications are created as in-house desk-top publications on an on-demand basis. So it may take several weeks before they're in the post.

Ten copies of Tuffy's War were printed, bound, and sent to Cyrus's father, David, in Lacey, Washington. In early February the society received a card from David Luhr — along with a donation to the society. The

card in part read ...

Thank you so much for the gesture. We are sending copies to our family members who I am sure will treasure them.

... it's a matter of torque ...

Featured in last month's *Mortarboard* (issue #71) was an article titled "Is this a Rauch & Lang Electric Automobile?" Included was a quote from then Rauch & Lang owner Agnes McDonald as printed in the September 19th, 1953, issue of the *Spokane Chronicle*. The article said ...

Did the car have any power? One of Mrs. McDonald's stories was about the time her back car spring got caught on the bumper of a big, modern automobile parked downtown.

"Even though it's brakes were on, I was towing it off with such ease that I wasn't aware of it," she said with merriment-filled eyes.

Society member Charles Stewart sent the following missive to the *Mortarboard*.

As a PhD mechanical engineer, I can't hold back a comment on the pulling capability of the electric auto. The geared electric motor and the big batteries would give the machine an absolutely huge amount to torque, even though it had very little rated horsepower (2½ horsepower stated). This torque, plus the heavy weight of the machine, would give it a monster towing capacity. I'm not surprised that it was able to pull the big car, though it did probably drain the battery.

... William Horatio Lewis ...

On the 15th of January, Bill Sebright received the following email from Bil (as opposed to Bill) Lewis, current resident of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Bil is also known as William Horatio Lewis III.

My great-grandfather and namesake was a man of considerable talent. He was extremely active in the life of Spokane from the time he arrived in the 1880s through his death in the late 1940s. He was the first white man to see the aftermath at Custer's last stand. He was a legend in Spokane's police department. He's famous in the fingerprinting world. And he helped design the Washington State flag.

Several people in the Spokane police department and Spokane police museum are working on a book about him.

I'm wondering if there are any people still alive in your area who knew him.

Society member Penny Hutten wrote Sue Walker of the Spokane Police Museum regarding Bil's request. Sue confirmed what Bil Lewis had said, and went on to outline an amazing life that she and others are currently turning into a book.

It appears William (Bil) Horatio Lewis III is scattering inquires throughout the region in hopes of adding new materials to his great-grandfather's story. If anyone has anything regarding the first Bill Lewis that might be of use to the current Bil Lewis, or to the Spokane Police Museum, please let us know.

... David Thompson & Poison Arrows ...

Society vice-president Pete Coffin noted that he's occasionally asked who the first European to pass though the Clayton/Deer Park area might have been. Pete suggests several candidates in an article appearing on pages 876 and 877 of this issue. One of those candidates is British/Canadian explorer/surveyor/map maker David Thompson (April 30, 1770 — February 10, 1857).

Thompson kept extensive notes of his travels. But, due to failing health, was unable to organize them into a book before blindness overtook him. Thirty seven years after his death, world renown geologist/paleontologist Joseph Burr Tyrrell recovered Thompson's catch of field notes, journals, maps, and his

never completed narrative. In 1916 Tyrrell published his own edited version of Thompson's documents under the title "*David Thompson's Narrative of his Explorations in Western North America: 1784 — 1812.*" This edition is available online in its entirety.

As an aside, Joseph Burr Tyrrell (November 1, 1858 — August 26, 1957) is a legend in the world of dinosaur hunters. Canada's Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology near Drumheller, Alberta, bears his name. Anyone visiting the Calgary area would be negligent if they didn't spend a least a day (or more) wandering the Royal Tyrrell's halls.

Pete's linkage of David Thompson's name to the watershed of the Little Spokane River opens a unique window on our region's history. For example; Part 2, Chapter 12, of the above noted "*Narrative*" — a section titled "*From Astoria to Spokane House*" — contains a description of Thompson's travels along the lower Columbia River. Early August, 1811, finds him in the vicinity of what would become Umatilla, Oregon. Here he makes this notation regarding warfare among the natives.

"The only natives that use poisoned weapons are the scoundrels that possess this river from its mouth up to the first falls. To collect the poison aged widows are employed. In each hand they have a small forked stick of about five feet in length, and with these the head and tail of the snake is pinned fast down to the ground. Then with a rude pair of pincers the fang teeth are gently extracted so as to bring the bladders of poison with them. These bladders are carefully placed in a muscle shell brought for this purpose. The snake is then let loose, and is accounted harmless. The aged women thus proceed until a sufficient quantity is collected, and then placed in one muscle shell. The arrow shods (as written), whether of iron or flint being well fixed to the arrow shaft for about half an inch in length, is dipped in the poison and carefully set to dry. When dry it has the appearance of dark brown varnish. When fresh the scratch of an arrow thus poisoned is fatal."

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Thompson's assumptions regarding the extent of deployment of rattlesnake venom tipped arrows, and the effectiveness of said venom, are of course hearsay drawn from native and other sources. Additionally, Thompson's use of the word "scoundrels" seems ingenuous considering the many well documented accounts of Europeans deliberately exposing the native population to various diseases in order to decimate the First Nations.

Also of note is this tidbit from a nearby continuation on the subject of rattlesnakes in Thompson's notes.

"... the rattle of the snake ... is in shape like a thin oblong clean skin bladder, each slightly connected with each other, in each (a) small circular hard substance about the size of the head of a large pin. When a woman in in hard labor, and her situation doubtful, one or two of the rattles is bruised very fine, mixed with a little water and given to the woman, which very soon relieves her. Among the Indians I remember five cases and each successful. And they informed me they

never administer it but in cases of necessity. How it is supposed to act I could never learn."

... Remembering Warren Nord ...

On February 24th, 2014, at the age of 86, society member Warren Jay Nord passed away due to complication arising after a heart valve replacement. This editor had the distinct pleasure of working with Warren on an article appearing in the July, 2010, issue of the *Mortarboard* — an article titled *The Story Beneath Leno Prestini's Sketch "Hell at Dawn."* That association required several tape-recorded interviews; an intrusion Warren endured with his trademark quiet humor.

An area resident since 1938, Warren attended Clayton Grade School and Deer Park High School. He was also a WWII veteran, serving in the South Pacific and China.

A gentleman through and through, all of us that knew him have noticed the remaining hollow.

Godspeed, sir.

———— Wally Lee Parker ————

Society Contacts

We encourage anyone with observations, concerns, corrections, or divergent opinions regarding the contents of these newsletters to write the society or contact one or more of the individuals listed below. Resultant conversations can remain confidential if so desired.

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