Summer Days on the Farm.
Do you remember?

“The grain binder cuts the grain and ties it into bundles. Workmen gather these bundles into shocks in the field where they remain a short time to cure. When the grain is sufficiently dry, it (is) hauled directly from the shocks to the thresher.” — G. A. Collier, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

“I can remember walking the (wheat) field and stacking (the shocks). When the stationery threshing machine came around to our farm, we threw the bundles onto a wagon with pitch forks and hauled them to the thresher.” — Ed Kingrey

“A wagonload of shocks gathered from the field would be pulled up next to the threshing machine and tossed into the hopper one by one.” — Chuck Stewart

“The wheat was funneled down a spout into gunny sacks that were then hand sewed closed and stacked for hauling away to market or to storage. There would be a huge pile of straw as a result of this operation. It was often used as bedding for livestock, and could be a secondary source of income for the farmer. It took a considerable crew to man this operation.” — Wey Simpson

The difference between a memory recalled and archived history is the degree of permanence.

Join the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society
Box 293, Clayton, WA 99110
(509) 276-2693
(Yearly dues: Twenty dollars per household.)
ocean liners and steam engines. By the 1890s he had become an accomplished journeyman machinist — his travels including a trip to Hawaii to repair the steam engines and turbines of naval vessels.

In 1890 a Tacoma city directory listed him as employed by the A.B. Todd Machinery Company. Later in the decade he had moved to southern Idaho — to the Oregon Short Line Railroad steam engine repair shops in Pocatello. At this time he was a "Master Machinist," and was supposed to be able to operate any machine tool in an engine repair shop; any machine from large lathes to milling machines. In addition he became a naturalized United States citizen.

While at the Pocatello engine repair shops he became friends with members of the Jacobsen family who were working there as blacksmiths. The Jacobsen family was a large one, having migrated to the United States from near Copenhagen, Denmark, as part of the European Mormon migration. My grandfather fell in love with one of the Jacobsen daughters, Dagmar "Lena" Elise Nicoline Jacobsen (born April 17, 1878 in a small farming town south of Copenhagen), and married her on April 17, 1900 in Pocatello, ID. After Peter moved to Tacoma, the union members presented him with a tea set in recognition of his service — a set which I have in my formal dining room. On May 29th, 1904, a daughter,
Frances Ethel (my mother), was born. The urge to own a farm apparently led Grandfather Michie to buy a farm near Leland, Idaho (northeast of Lewiston and Julialetta), before the spring of 1910. While there he must have been recommended to the Washington Water Power Company as a local consulting master railroad machinist; someone who could prepare the steam locomotives that would be used by the Springdale & Long Lake Railroad between 1911 and 1914 to supply construction materials for the building of the Long Lake Dam on the Spokane River west of Spokane.

Sometime during his visits to the Springdale area to work on these locomotives, he bought an 80 acre tract in the Big Foot Valley (N/2 SE/4 Section 34 Township 29 North Range 41 East), and moved his family there in 1914. Apparently farming was not as profitable as he desired, because in 1918 he and his family were living in Everett, Washington — though he kept ownership of this farm near Clayton when moving back to the Washington coast.

In 1918 his mother’s health was failing, so he moved his family to Winnipeg, Canada, to help with her care. On February 25, 1919 she died, and with his family duty ended, he moved his family back to Seattle where he worked in the Bremerton Naval Shipyards repairing naval ship engines — which required riding the ferry daily from Seattle to Bremerton and back. At this time his daughter, Frances, entered the University of Washington, graduating in 1924 with a BA.

From approximately 1920 to the early 1930s he continued to work as a machinist in the Bremerton Ship Yards. In the early summer of 1930 William Leuthold, owner of Deer Park’s sawmill, wrote him regarding finding someone interested in buying Deer Park Lumber’s logging locomotives.

By 1935, as the depression continued...
to slow economic development, he had retired to his Clayton, Washington, farm. His daughter returned from the east coast — where she’d been attending school and seeking work — to help with the farm. His health continued to deteriorate, the farm was sold to his son and daughter, and a house on east Crawford Street in Deer Park was purchased.

In the early 1950s he and his wife could no longer live alone, so they moved in with their daughter’s family on South Main Avenue in Deer Park. After spending his last several years blind, he passed away on December 25, 1955.

I never really knew my Grandfather. By the time I was old enough to appreciate the stories he might have shared, he was very old, aloof, and caught up in what would prove to be a terminal illness.

——— end ———

Frank Frey’s Breakfast
— circa 1948 ——

by Edward Kingrey
(Aka ‘Pudgie,’ ‘Pudge,’ ‘Pud’ Pulliam-Robertson.)

In the 1940s I was being raised by my Grandparents, Walter and Clara King, on the 300 acre King Dairy Farm, ½ mile south of the Clayton Grade School.

Clayton was a thriving town and the Washington Brick & Lime Company was in full production. The coal fired steam locomotive could be heard daily from the farm, maneuvering to pick up the cars full of brick and terracotta from the side rail in front of the plant.

Grandpa King was milking 30 to 35 Holstein, Guernsey and Jersey cows. Milk was picked up daily by a Darigold truck in ten gallon cans, kept cool in a concrete vat full of water in the milk house.

After the morning milking, Grandpa King also delivered milk to the town folks in one quart bottles, filled and capped by Grandma King during the milking. The wire racks full of bottles were loaded into the back seat of the ’41 Plymouth, and we would set off for the milk route through town. I sat in the front passenger seat. As we stopped in front of a customer’s house, I jumped out, grabbed one or two bottles of milk, and raced to the house, setting the bottles on the front porch and retrieving the empty bottles from the day before.

When the milk route was completed, we ended up in downtown Clayton. Grandpa Frank Frey and his dog, Spot. This photo, date unknown, was taken in Clayton, with the Washington Brick & Lime Company’s factory in the background.

Frank Frey’s Breakfast
— circa 1948 ——

by Edward Kingrey
(Aka ‘Pudgie,’ ‘Pudge,’ ‘Pud’ Pulliam-Robertson.)

King dropped into the two local taverns for a beer, a bit of chit chat with Matt in Matt’s Tavern or with Elmer or Homer Holcomb in the Ramble In Tavern.

Routinely, while we were in the Ramble In Tavern, Frank Frey would come in on his way to work, sit up to the bar, and order a glass of beer. Once the beer was placed in front of him, Frank reached into his coat pocket and retrieved a large egg. I watched with great interest as he cracked the egg into the glass of beer and discarded the shell. He then raised the glass slowly to his lips and began drinking the beer. As the beer disappeared
into his mouth, and the level slowly lowered, the raw egg slipped from the bottom of the glass and also disappeared into Frank’s mouth, as did the complete glass of beer. Frank said, “The beer fried the egg.” And this was his breakfast.

I recall sitting nearby in complete fascination while watching this ritual, and can remember it like it was yesterday.

——— end ———

The beer fried the egg."

And this was his breakfast.

Finding sufficient documentation to pull all the threads of a research project together can be frustrating. One good example is a longtime attempt to trace the history of Washington Brick & Lime’s co-founder, Joseph Spear, back any further than his 1887 arrival in Spokane. Other than that he came here from Illinois, or sometimes more specifically from Chicago, nothing was found. And the worry was that it would remain that way. Frank said, “The beer fried the egg.”

Inhabitants in Springfield, Illinois, are a native of Springfield, Illinois, born in April, 1853. His father, David Spear, was born in Ireland; emigrated to the United States, and after living some years in Kentucky, settled in Springfield prior to 1840, and was engaged in the dry goods business in the city about a quarter of a century. He died a number of years ago. Joseph operated in hard-wood lumber quite extensively in Springfield for about four years before forming the present partnership, which occurred in the early part of 1880, and their yard was opened in March of that year. Their stock comprises a large assortment of building and finishing lumber, soft and hard woods, and sashes, doors, blinds, nails, and builder’s material generally, in which they already have a heavy trade, their sales for the fraction of the year 1880 reaching $60,000, with a considerable increase in the corresponding months of 1881.

The partner in the above noted firm of Spear & Loose was Joseph Iles Loose. It’s interesting that Loose’s write-up in the Sangamon history included information about his wife and children, while those items were absent from Spear’s write-up. And without such, we couldn’t be sure the Joseph H. Spear mentioned in the city of Springfield’s segment of the book was our Joseph Spear. We needed a firm link.

And that’s where the aforementioned Wendy Budge — and her prior research into the history of Spokane’s Victor Piollet house — came into play.

Victor Emile Piollet was born into a prominent Pennsylvania family in 1886. He appears to have graduated from New York’s Cornell University in 1908, and, according to Wendy’s research, relocated to Spokane shortly thereafter to engage in the local real estate business. Once in town he became acquainted with Jean Spear, daughter and fifth child of prominent Spokane businessman Joseph H. Spear and his wife, Jennie. And on the last Wednesday of 1909, Victor and Jean were married.

Other sources have provided the names of all six of Joseph and Jennie Spear’s children. In order of birth they were Joseph, Ray, Ida, Lawrence, Jennie (the above noted “Jean”) and Donald. If any of those children could be documented as having been born in Springfield, Illinois, at about the time the Spear & Loose lumberyard was known to have been in operation, that would be considered strong evidence that Joseph Spear was the individual noted in the History of Sangamon County and Washington Brick & Lime’s Joseph Spear were one and the same.

In that regard, Wendy Budge forwarded a page from the 1880 U.S. Census. This page, listing the “Inhabitants in Springfield, in the County of Sangamon, State of Illinois,” records the household of “Spear, Joseph,” a 27 year old “Lumber Dealer,” and his wife, “Jennie.” Joseph’s place of birth is listed as “Illinois,” and his wife’s as “Wisconsin.” Two children are listed, “Joseph,” age 4, and “Ray,” age 1. All the above appears consistent with what we know of Spokane’s Spear family.

It’s also interesting to take note of two other residential entries in the 1880 Springfield; “Maggie Nelson,” a 17 year old employed as a “Servant,” and “Lizzie Nelson,” a 13 year old employed as a “Nurse.” While the oldest is listed as having been born in Scotland, and the youngest in Illinois, it’s tempting to assume they were in fact related, and that they came from a family of recent immigrants. Adding to that temptation, the birthplace of both parents of both girls is stated as “Scotland.” Temptation aside, there’s little doubt that both were resident domestics in the Spear home.

A final confirmation comes from an article in the June 4th, 1942, edition of the Spokane Chronicle. Under the headline “Solon Praises Admiral Spear,” the Associate Press article notes that “Rear Admiral Ray Spear,” paymaster general of the navy and chief of
the bureau of supplies and accounts," was, due to “the age limit law” going into retire-
ment. As background, the article noted that “Admiral Spear ... was born in Springfield, Ill., in 1878 and entered the navy from the State of Washington in 1900 ...” Ray Spear’s rise from Spokane resident to Rear Admiral is well documented in vintage Spokane newspa-
papers. And, with the above statement, there’s little doubt that he’s the same person men-
tioned in the 1880 census.

Regarding the Admiral’s first name, — Ray — the normal assumption would be that it’s a contraction of Raymond. In this case we’ve found no evidence proposing such. To the contrary, his mother’s maiden name was Jennie Ray — which would imply that his
given name is in fact a homage to her sur-
name.

What we’ve so far learned about Jo-
seph and Jennie Spear’s history in Spokane
hints at privileged lives drawn out of shrewd
calculation and unrelenting industry. To what ex-
tent that success was predicted by money
they may have brought into the community
with them, at this point we’ve no idea. But
once they arrived, they immediately set to
leveraging a portion of the Inland Empire’s
mineral riches for themselves and their chil-
dren. We wish to thank Wendy Budge for
her collaboration in our continuing search.

——— end ———

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats
— or —

Bits of Chatter, Trivia, & Notices — all strung together.

... Marilynn McLean’s donation ...  

On Monday, the 26th of April, the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society came into possession of a vintage artifact — a 10 inch wide by 4¾ inch deep stoneware bowl. The bowl was manufactured in Clayton over a hundred years ago by the short lived, but ap-
parently very productive, Spokane Pottery
Company. And now it’s coming home.

We first became aware of the bowl’s
existence on the 25th of February when our society’s president, Bill Sebright, received the following email from one Annette Buehler. “I was helping an elderly family friend (Marilynn McLean) clear out her house when we ran
across a large clay bowl marked Spokane Pot-
ttery Company on the bottom. Could this be
from the Clayton kilns? Any information
would be appreciated.”

Bill forwarded the email to me, say-
ing, “Wally, I think you know more about the
Spokane Pottery Company than I do, would
you like to answer this?”

I sent Annette the following note.

“I’ve attached a PDF containing everything
we’ve published so far on the Spokane Pottery
Company (see ‘Further Reading’ box, next
page). It isn’t that much, two articles covering
six pages. It does however have some photos,
and it does give you a basic idea of what the
factory was all about.”

Everything was quiet for the next
several months, and then, on April 20th, I re-
ceived this email from Marilynn McLean, the
artifact’s owner. “I’m sorry that I have not

Chips, scratches, and a spot where the
depth of the bowl was inscribed.

The bottom of the bowl, clearly showing the
Spokane Pottery Company stamp.
Spokane Pottery Company — Further Reading Plus Photos

“In Search of Clayton’s Spokane Pottery Company.”

by Wally Lee Parker

“Letters, Email, & Chatter.”

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Spokane Pottery Company — Further Reading Plus Photos

“In Search of Clayton’s Spokane Pottery Company.”

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“Letters, Email, & Chatter.”

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Oliver of the Spokane Pottery Company said: “The amount of standard pottery we produce is about 30,000 gallons per month. We have 14 men manufacturing it. Our works are located at Clayton, Wash. ...”kane Pottery Co., of Spokane, Wash., has bought the plant of the Standard Stoneware Company, at Clayton.”

In turn, the demise of Spokane Pottery was affirmed in a December 23rd 1909, Spokane Chronicle headline. “Pottery Company To Be Sold.” The article indicated that “Judge Hinkle issued an order yesterday setting January 15 as the date of sale of all of the property of the Spokane Pottery Company, which lately went into a receiver’s hands.”

The result of that order was announced in the March, 1910, issue of The Clay Worker. “The Clay Products Company, at Clayton, Wash., has carried on the manufacture of stoneware at Clayton for several years, and some time ago decided to remove to Spokane, because the growth of the factory at that point was handicapped by lack of labor and an excessive cost for fuel. ... The company owns very valuable clay deposits in Stevens County, which it acquired from the old Spokane Pottery Company.”

And so — like the shards of a once shattered stoneware vessel — we’re slowly fitting together the ever more complex story of Clayton’s historic pottery industry.

Wally Lee Parker

Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society Meeting
May 14, 2016

In attendance: Mike Reiter, Betty Burdette, Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Marilyn Reilly, Mark Wagner, Dianne Allert, Bob Gibson, Pete Coffin, Lorraine Nord, Judy Coffin, Chuck Lyons, Marie Morfill, Don Ball, and Tom Gardner.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. He reported that: 1) He received an email from Suzanne Lindsay. She is George Hand’s daughter. George is DPHS Class of 1948. They live in Pontotoc and Kosciusko, Mississippi, respec-

tively. Suzanne wanted information from that time and a map of area around the Hand farm. 2) In his memoirs, Battista Prestini — older brother of Leno Prestini — noted that after their arrival in Clayton, he and Leno spent at least a few idle hours breaking numerous pieces of earthenware in an abandoned factory near their home. We suspect 1912 or ‘13 as the date of the boys’ arrival, which would mesh very nicely with the following article from the January 14th, 1912, issue of the Spokane Morning-Review.

“Spokane will have another big factory within a few months, as the Clay Products Company will begin the construction of a new plant in this city tomorrow. The company has been on the manufacture of stoneware at Clayton for several years, and some time ago decided to remove to Spokane, because the growth of the factory at that point was handicapped by lack of labor and an excessive cost for fuel. ... The company owns very valuable clay deposits in Stevens County, which it acquired from the old Spokane Pottery Company.”

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It was at the corner of Spotted and Enoch Roads. Pete provided her with an ownership map of the area. 2) Jason Hubal passed away May 8. He was a faithful Society member who helped proofread newsletters and sent many people to our website or to someone who might know the answer to a question. His celebration of life will be May 21, 11 AM, at the First Baptist Church on East Crawford in Deer Park. 3) Kris Barnes emailed Bill that a picture album, a survey map book, and a bible had been dropped off at the Deer Park Library. The picture album had the names Leonard and Maxine Walden written inside. No one has been identified yet. 4) Bob Banger called Bill to ask about Leno Prestini’s paintings and the Prestini Museum. He also wanted to find some Clayton clay. He makes ceramic tile and pottery. He needs a phone number. Chris said he would show Bob where to get Clayton clay. Bob got Bill’s phone number from the website.

Mortarboard manu-

article taken at the Deer Park Drag strip. 3) Provided Ancestry.com information about Virginia (Leach) Moor who lived in Loon Lake to the Stevens County Historical Society. 4) Sent Editor Parker a manuscript describing a hole dug into the bottom of Deer Lake in the 1940s. 5) In response to my letter to Alice Owen about getting some Arcadia Orchard building photographs, I received a very nice letter from Sue (Owen) Mauro with some copies of photos enclosed. She said she is Alice Owen’s daughter and wrote quite a letter. I am attempting to get more information about the Owens Museum and the photographs therein. 6) Have asked John Odynski if he might be interested in reviewing some of the First State Bank records I obtained from Kim Hickethier (see item 1 above).

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) One hundred and ten copies of the May Mortarboard (#97) have been printed for distribution, and the online version has been submitted for posting. This issue contains an essay by Ken Westby regarding the early electrification of Deer Park, Pete Coffin’s biography of Wally Lee Parker, and a letters column with notes on the terracotta medallions produced by the Washington Brick, Lime & Manufacturing Company. 2) A stoneware Clay-Worker magazine that the creation of a computer archiving program for the society has been delayed by an unexpected increase in the amount of time consumed by his real job. He wanted to reassure the society that we haven’t been forgotten, and all kinds of specialties, such as jardinières, vases, large yard vases, etc. ... We make jugs of imperial measure for the Canada trade.”

If there was a period of overlap when two pottery businesses operated, that possibility was ended with this announcement from the February, 1906 issue of The Clay Worker. “The Spokane Pottery Co., of Spokane, Wash., has the plant of the Standard Stoneware Company, at Clayton.”

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The main checking account ended the month (Apr 31st) at $7,335.60. Check written to Wally Parker for supplies, $116.30. There were deposits of $170.00. The web hosting account had a withdrawal of $10.95 for web hosting and a service charge of $5.00 and a withdrawal of $394.20 for our domain renewal and ended the month at $425.13. I will be submitting our federal tax return later this month.

Society Vice President Pete Coffin reported by email: 1) Just after the last meeting I made contact with the people who had a large amount of past Deer Park business ledger records and associated records. Marilyn Reilly and I, along with Kim Hickethier (Erick’s Realty) loaded them into my pickup truck. There must be about 500 to 1000 pounds of material. 2) The June 2016 Hot Rod magazine has an article about the introduction of nitrous Oxide drag race fuel titled “The First Squeeze.” 

Tell us about it.” 4) Translations of the Luigi Battista Prestini — older brother of Leno Prestini — noted that after their arrival in Clayton, he and Leno spent at least a few idle hours breaking numerous pieces of earthenware in an abandoned factory near their home. We suspect 1912 or ‘13 as the date of the boys’ arrival, which would mesh very nicely with the following article from the January 14th, 1912, issue of the Spokane Morning-Review.

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— C/DPHS —

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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Peter Coffin, Vice-President — pcffn@q.com
Wally Lee Parker, Editor of Print Publications — bogwen100@msn.com — (509) 467-9433

See Yourself in Print.

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society’s department of Print Publications is always looking for original writings, classic photos, properly aged documents and the like that may be of interest to our readers. These materials should be rooted within, though not limited to, northern Spokane County, southeastern Stevens County, and southern Pend Oreille County. As for types of materials, family or personal remembrances are always considered. Articles of general historical interest — including pieces on natural history, archeology, geology and such — are likely to prove useful. In other words, we are always searching for things that will increase our readers’ understanding and appreciation of this region’s past. As for historical perspective: to us history begins whenever the past is dusty enough to have become noteworthy — which is always open to interpretation. From there it extends back as deep as we can see, can research, or even speculate upon.

Copyright considerations for any materials submitted are stated in the “Editorial and Copyright Policy” dialog box found on the facing page. For any clarifications regarding said policy, or any discussions of possible story ideas or the appropriateness of certain types of material and so on, please contact the editor via the email address supplied on the same page.

— the editor ——

Volunteer proofreader for this issue: Lina Swain.

A print copy of this issue of the Mortarboard is or soon will be available in booklet format. Ask about “Collected Newsletters: Volume Twenty-Seven.”

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