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History is Waiting.

The Hodges Family:
— Early 20th Century Settlers —
by Rick Hodges

The history of the Hodges family was outlined in a note written by my father, Paul Hodges in the fall of 1992. The note was intended, in part, to describe where a family heirloom quilt had been assembled. From that note, and a collection of family pictures, this manuscript has been written to describe when and where the Hodges family settled in the Williams Valley area and Deer Park.

Paul’s father, Joseph, was born on November 24, 1867 in Macoupin, Illinois to William and Elizabeth (Ross) Hodges who farmed raw, unbroken prairie land. In 1871, four years after Joseph was born the family of 8 children loaded their belongings into two covered wagons and moved to Sterling, Nebraska, where a relative had taken a home-stead. Two more children were born to the family bringing the total to ten with one dying as an infant. Records indicate that William and Elizabeth purchased a farm near Adams, Nebraska where Joseph stayed with his parents to help with the farm. Records do not detail the date of the sale of the Adams farm. Joseph stayed there and rented a good farm
near Fairmont, Nebraska and married Hattie Roberts on September 12, 1900. Hattie was the third child of Omar and Mary (Strong) Roberts in a large family of twelve children. Joseph and Hattie began a family and by 1906 it was composed of Mervyn (1902-1983) and Paul W. (1904-1995). In 1907 Joseph and his family moved from Nebraska to Williams Valley where their last child Lois N. was born.

At approximately the same time Hattie’s father, Omar Griffith Roberts and the rest of his family moved to the area settling on a farm west of the Wild Rose school house. Joseph took a job with the Arcadia Orchards Company and moved his family into a house owned by that company in Stevens County on the northwest quarter of Section 12 Township 28 North Range 41 West just northeast of the Williams Valley School House.

Above: The Hodges family home — August, 1907. From left, Mervyn, Hattie (on the porch), Joseph and Paul. This house burned in 1940.

Below: Paul Hodges on a load of logs located 1 ½ mile southwest of the Williams Valley school house. Note the method of rolling logs onto the load.

Image #2.

Image #3.

This photo courtesy of the Hodges family.

Image #4.

The Williams Valley School — June, 1908.
Back row from left: Luther Irish, Ruby Doaen (sp?), Vern Edwards, Edith Oor, Esther Irish, ? Schoenwald, and Alice James (Teacher).
Front row from left: Gottfried Schoenwald, Dewey Irish, Amy Imy, Ralph Krick, Helen Doaen (sp?), Harry Imy, Tommy Irish, Marion Staley, Estella Throop, Rachel Imy, and Melville Throop.

(Names taken from handwriting on back of photo. Some interpretations are tentative.)

This photo courtesy of the Hodges family.
According to the family the Section 12 tract had been purchased by the Arcadia Orchards Company in April of 1907. Paul Hodges said the land “…around the house was prepared with lawn, flower beds and shrubbery, all in the shape of a large heart to promote sales. After the land was cleared of stumps and brush using manpower and blasting powder the land west of the house was surveyed, cultivated and planted with apple trees. The creek was dammed, and a flume was laid for irrigation.” It is not clear what Joseph’s position with the Arcadia Company was. He has been mentioned as an agent or representative or caretaker. The company wanted him to use his house and plot as a model to show to prospective investors. Herbert Mason describes dynamiting stumps, cutting poles, using a Fresno to level the land and planting trees on the West Arcadia lands in his March 1910 entries to his “Memoranda”(1). The Arcadia Orchards Company land maps of 1911 do not show this tract. There are other Arcadia tracts mapped south and southeast of this tract. Unfortunately, land ownership maps dated 1905 and 1912 such as those drawn for Spokane County just east of this township do not seem to have been made for Stevens County.

During the years the family lived in Williams Valley Joseph Hodges worked at clearing land and logging along with some subsistence farming. Log transport generally took place during the winter months when snow allowed sledding the logs to a saw mill. There were several small sawmills located in Williams Valley as well as the large Standard Lumber Mill in Deer Park.

The Hodges family attended school at the Williams Valley school located less than a mile southwest of their home.

Footnote.
utility shed to the southwest. To the south was his garden — a patch of tilled ground surrounded by a deer-fence made from thin tamarack saplings tied and nailed into a ridged, net-like structure at least eight feet high and perhaps thirty feet on a side.

There was no power on the property — so no lights and no water pump. He used a bucket on the end of a rope to lift water for his garden from a shallow, hand-dug plank lined well. Water from the spring-fed well tended to be turbid and gritty, but still safe to drink.

The cabin itself was about ten by twenty feet. Bare logs outside and in, with mortar daubed between the logs to cut the wind, and a roof shingled over with narrow tamarack shakes.

Canfield didn’t own horse or car — at least not after we moved into the area. He walked wherever he wanted to go. If he had something to carry, he had a small, two-wheel pull-wagon — with thin, wood spoke wheels about four foot in diameter. Mike Burdette said Mattie had gotten the wheels and axle from Lorraine and Luella Milner’s grandfather, either Arthur Milner or Ed Kratzer, and built the cart himself. Mike said, “It was surprising how much you could get on that thing, and how easy it was to push or pull if you had a decent trail. Mattie would bring his winter’s wood home on it. And the wood he needed year round for cooking, too.”

Most everybody offered Mattie rides, but on those occasions that he preferred to walk to Deer Park or Clayton for his groceries, he could be seen pulling his cart down the
road. For entertainment, Mattie had a violin. When visiting us, he'd sometimes bring it along and offer to play for the family. My eldest sister, Wanda, recalls, "He'd say he was going to play 'Turkey in the Straw'. I could never hear a tune of any kind in the noise his violin was making. But we'd just smile and listen. Then he'd say he was going to play something else, 'Comptown Races' for example. And it sounded just like 'Turkey In The Straw' — which didn't sound like anything. I don't know if he'd lost his ear for music, or just never had one."

"For relaxation," Mike said, "Mattie would buy a 'hand' of tobacco — tobacco still in the leaf — and grind it himself. He said if he had a choice between three meals a day, or two meals and his tobacco, he'd take the two meals and his smokes. That was the only 'vice', as some people might call it, that I remember him having."

In 1948, during the Parker family's first summer on the Williams Valley farm, my dad set to building a large, peeled log addition to the front of our two-room house. Mattie, having had quite a bit of experience building with logs, helped with the peeling and construction. Then too, my grandfather, Alfred Wallace Parker, something of a story spinner himself, had driven up from California to help with the building. Alfred and Mattie spent quite a few hours swapping tall tales while they worked.

Within a year, Mattie decided he didn't like living so close to a bunch of kids — meaning us. When he told my dad he was thinking of selling his acre, dad offered to buy — mostly because my dad didn't want someone else moving into the cabin and living that close to us either.

Mike Burdette recalls, "Louis Staf-
hand at lawman, stating that he rode with the Texas Rangers for twelve years. With Ameri-
can’s entry into World War I, Mattie joined the Army — though sixty-eight years old at the time — and served in Alaska and Siberia. After discharge he settled down in Renton, living there until moving to the east side of the state in the late nineteen thirties.

Mattie told Bob that it was after mov-
ing to Williams Valley that he took up playing the violin — which may explain my sister’s recollection of his skill with the fiddle bow.

Robert notes that Mattie’s stories seemed “fabulous”, but went on to say, “He gives the impression of being honest and sincere in reporting them.”

As I recall any of Mattie’s stories, I do remember that one room log cabin in Staffanson’s fannos. I’d been there often enough, accompanying my mother when she’d stop by to check on Mattie as well as many of the neighbors did. And to a little kid, that place could be both fascinating and scary.

The wood stove — a kitchen range — sat near the east wall. The entry door was also on the east wall. When coming in you’d walk right by the stove.

Mike Burdette’s wife, Betty, remem-
bered the stove. “We’d go to visit him in the winter time. The log wall of his cabin there were cracks wide enough to see sky. But as long as you sat right next to the stove, you were warm.”

At other times of the year, Mattie often had to have a small fire burning — to cook food or drive off the early morning chill. Sometimes, when we’d visit, the oven door would be down, the wire grid of his cabin...
Nations. Mortarboard, one thing is certain. This small, local society has already amassed a unique print and video archive (Arca dia Orchards film) — an archive that may be of some value to future citizens of this region, whomever they may be.

… regarding Evan Morgan’s park …

This last winter your editor sent the following note — specific to the postcard illustration reproduced on the top of the next page — to the Loon Lake Historical Society.

I’m trying to positively identify the “two large structures seen in the attached postcard photo. I believe the building to the right is the dance pavilion ... was lost would aid in my research into it. I also need to know if the building to the left was also part of Morgan Park.

I’m tentatively dating this photo as between 1905 and 1910 for no other reason than a few other photo postcards of similar appearance (both front and back) have been dated to that era.

Looking carefully on the right side of the image, a short distance away from the shoreline, you can just make out what is very likely the steam launch Gwen.“

In mid-February I received this from Mary Jo Lovell, recently installed president of the Loon Lake group.

I apologize for the delay in getting back to you. The historical society is in transition, and I’m trying to respond to all the emails received.

I am aware you came to the Old School House and reviewed materials on Morgan Park and the Gwen this past summer. If you are still looking for help, I have lots of information on the buildings in the photo (reproduced above) in a Morgan Park history book in the Old Loon Lake School House.

We aren’t open yet, but we will be beginning May 3, 2018. We plan to be open on Saturday’s from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., depending on the availability of staffing.

Please let me know if I can be of further help with your history project.

The following was sent in reply.

Thank you for your email of the 13th. There’s a lot going on now, so I’m a bit behind on all my correspondence. But one thing I’d like to do while I’m thinking about it is request permission to reprint your email, or portions thereof, in the ‘Letters’ segment of an upcoming issue of the Mortarboard. It’ll give our readers a good idea of the type of things available in our archive, as well as when your building will be accessible this spring.

“As you may know, several of our members dived on Loon Lake’s drowned boat last September. They’ve now posted a video of that adventure on YouTube. Just type ‘In Search of the Gwen’ into the YouTube search box.) It’s an interesting take on the artifact, and likely the first attempt at an informative look at the subject using that type of media (other videos have been posted, but little attempt at analysis were made).

Regarding your archive; as you noted, I did make several visits to the school house before you closed for the season. Enough data was obtained during those visits to complete the two-part article appearing in the November and December issues of the Mortarboard — both now posted on the C/DPHS’s website. I believe you’ll find the article of interest since it strikes toward the two questions central to Loon Lake’s drowned boat. Is it in fact the remains of Evan Morgan’s steam powered launch, the Gwen, and if not, what happened to the original Gwen? And then, what is the actual origin and identity of the drowned boat generally believed to be the Gwen?

Our research suggests that the Gwen was destroyed during the winter of 1916 — in the late fall or early winter of 1916, or some time in the first several months of 1917. The
boat had been drawn onto shore (out of the water) for the coming winter. The boat’s caretaker allowed water (assumedly rain and/or snowmel) to accumulate inside the hull, and when that water froze and expanded, it broke the hull apart. That according to state documents contemporary to the event.

“As for the identity of the drowned boat; in 1922 Evan Morgan constructed a second large excursion boat for use on the lake — this time likely gasoline powered (the horsepower for the engine is given, and it fits nicely to the specifications of a four or six-cylinder gasoline engine of that period). The boat was called the Loon. We have no data as to when it was lost, but some of the material in your archives suggest it may have been 1926 or thereabouts.”

“Our research gives us an extremely probable answer to both the above questions, certainty is a bit more elusive. The article also gives the sources of our research, so anyone interested can reconstruct our train of evidence, then come to their own conclusions.”

“To my mind this doesn’t end the puzzle of the drowned boat, nor lessen its value as an historic artifact. The high probability is that this artifact is the only surviving example of Evan Morgan’s boat building technique. As such, I believe a much more detailed (though completely noninvasive) examination should be undertaken to ascertain whatever can be learned about the artifact’s structure and so forth. It’ll be interesting to see if any movement in that direction can be stimulated and undertaken before it’s too late.”

“As for further research into the history of the buildings at Evan Morgan’s park, and Loon Lake’s history in general, that is certainly something I’d like to see more of in the Mortarboard. I do hope to do some follow-up to the postcard image in question. From what I’ve seen, the Loon Lake Historical Society is an excellent research source. I’ll definitely be keeping that in mind going forward, and also do my best to remind everyone else in the community of the fact.”

... printer status ... 

Beginning in January, 2014, your current editor assumed the helm of Print Publications from then editor Sharon Clark. Initially I was using my own Brother HL-6180DW printer for the Mortarboards and related copy. Several months into my editorship, it was decided the society should purchase its own dedicated printer — that being the best means of tracking actual print cost. On the 16th of April, 2014, a second HL-6180DW was purchased. That machine has been in use exclusively for society materials ever since. The only actual maintenance required on the machine in the last four years has been a print-drum replacement — that in January of 2017. Drum replacements are an anticipated part of the machine’s life, though the first drum lasted significantly longer than the manufacturer’s specifications suggested it would.

Outside of that, the only problems weren’t with the machine, but rather with the print cartridges used in the machine. Of the 14 cartridges installed so far, one failed due to a toner leak, and another due to a toner pickup problem inside the cartridge.

In the next several years advances in Eco-Tank and related printer technologies will hopefully make large scale color printing both practical and economical — though I don’t recommend anyone hold their breath. That said, our aging LaserJet seems to be holding up well — meaning its inevitable failure will very likely still come as a surprise.

... Volunteer Opportunities ... 

Just a reminder that a number of local organizations are looking for volunteers for this summer’s activities, not only in the Clayton, Deer Park, and Loon Lake communities, but in neighboring areas as well. Volunteering is a good way to get to know your neighbors, something often lacking in today’s world.

— Wally Lee Parker —

Deer Park Locations Currently Carrying Print Copies of the Mortarboard:
City Library, City Hall, Garden Spot Market, Standen Insurance, & Odynski’s Accounting.

Further Reading — Settler’s Day.


Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society
March 10, 2018

In attendance (Grange Hall): Marilyn Reilly, Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Mark Wagner, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Christina Burris, Mary Jo Reiter, Rick Brown, Lorraine Boulet, Ella Jenkins, Sue Rehms, Marie Morrill, Don Ball, Roxanne Camp, and Betty Burdette.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported that:
1) Marie Morrill received an email from Mary Jo Lovell (I received a copy), President of the Loon Lake Historical Society. Mary Jo asked Marie to help with their website or give her the name of someone who could help. We hope that we can continue to work together.
2) Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the main checking account ended the month at $6,556.24. There were deposits of $145.00. One check was written for $86.50 for Wally for supplies. The web hosting account ended the month at $591.27 and was withdrawn at $10.95 for web hosting. The Brickyard account is at $1177.48.
3) Society President: Vice President has not stepped forward to become Vice President.

Print editor Wally Parker reported:
1) One hundred and ten copies of the March Mortarboard (#119) have been printed and distributed, for the online version has been submitted for posting. This 12-page issue features two classic articles reprinted from the earlier Reports to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society: “Growing in Williams Valley” and “Settler’s Day — 2018” Above is this year’s annual button for Deer Park’s Settler’s Day. The first Settler’s Day picnic was held on the 16th of September, 1922 at the former Wild Rose Tourist Park, just south of the Wild Rose School.
June 21st, 1923, marked the second Settler’s Day, with the picnic held at the new Deer Park Tourist Park — Mix Park. That continues to be the picnic’s location.


Settler’s Day — 2018


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Winter of 1923-'24” by Harold Larue Dutcher. The Letters/Brickbats segment contains some notes about the society’s change of venue, an online link to Mike Reiter and Rick Brodick’s video about their dive to Loon Lake’s drowned boat, and a short musing on that boat’s eventual fate. 2) Tentative plans for the April issue include an outline of the Hodges family’s settlement into the area in the early 20th century — that by Rick Hodges — and a classic reprint from the Reports titled “In Search of Mattie Canfield.” The Email/Brickbats column will contain some reflection on the fact that the April issue will be the 120th edition of our little magazine — ten continuous years of Mortarboards. For those keeping count, that’s one thousand, six hundred and fifty-six pages of often unique stories, photos, and in-depth research related to the history of this area.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported that she has uploaded the March Mortarboard. She is thinking about putting together an article regarding Deer Park High School and the Rose Bowl Parade — what would the members think of it? She will contact Mary Jo Lovell about possible web site help.

Roxanne Camp brought a box of Nostalgia Magazines that go back to 2003.

Marilyn Reilly provided Wally with contact information for LaRae Wiley and Chris Parkin, regarding the Salish language. Betty announced that Settlers Days meeting are every third Monday at the City Hall, 7:00 PM. March 14 will be the 2nd meeting for the Brickyard Day, Real Estate Marketplace, 6 PM. The Grange Hall is the theme this year.

Next meeting: Saturday, April 14, 2017, at 9 AM at the Clayton Grange Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM. The Society meeting minutes submitted by Mark Wagner, acting Secretary.

——— end ———

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When requests to reprint C/DPHS materials are received, such will be granted in almost all instances — assuming of course that we have the right to extend such permission. In instances where we don’t have that right, we will attempt to place the requester in contact with the owner of the intellectual property in question. But, as a matter of both prudence and common courtesy, in all instances a request to reprint must be made, and must be made in writing (letter or email), before any C/DPHS materials are reprinted.

——— the editor ———

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 page 1,628 of this issue. 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.

New Venue for Society Meetings:

On the Second Saturday of each month, at 9 a.m., the Clayton / Deer Park Historical Society will be meeting in the basement of the Clayton Grange Hall, the south side of Railroad Avenue, Clayton, Washington.

Our meetings are open to any who wish to attend.