No need to feel left out this winter.
Join the Clayton / Deer Park Historical Society!

Illustration from the January 1919 issue of System on the Farm Magazine.

The C/DPHS is an association of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the history of our community. To the preservation of the region's oral history, literary history, social history, graphic and pictorial history, and our history as represented by the region's artifacts and structures. To the preservation of this history for future generations. To the art of making this common heritage accessible to the public. And to the act of collaborating with other individuals and organizations sharing similar goals.

Free — Take One

Herbert Mason, a pioneer resident of Williams Valley, kept a diary from 1900 to late 1937 which he called a “Memoranda.” In it he kept daily notes describing what he did on that day as well as comments about people and happenings in the area immediately southwest of Deer Park. The Memoranda is an invaluable record of farming and logging in the area. Richard Hazelmanyer brought the Memoranda to the society’s attention and gave the society information about the historical Mason family. Mike Layton, Herbert’s nephew, graciously allowed me to photocopy the ledger sized books of daily notes that had been kept in a trunk at his house.

Much of the early life of the Mason family was recorded by Roy Mason, Herbert’s brother and submitted to “Echoing Footsteps” a Montana historical publication in 1967. Herbert’s father, Charles Oscar Mason, had been a trapper and a buffalo hunter in Montana and Wyoming’s Powder River Basin in the 1870s and early 1880s before returning to his native Pennsylvania to marry Sylvia Irene and settle in Montana in the late 1880s. Herbert Mason was born on September 13, 1886, in a log cabin in far southeastern Montana’s Powder River Basin on Bloom Creek near Broadus, Montana, in present day Custer County. He was the first child born to Charles Oscar and Sylvia Irene Mason.

The family was joined by sister Estella (born September 21, 1889), George Roy (born October 15, 1893), and James Edward (born June 17, 1896). All of these children were born in a very remote area with little or no medical help.

Charles Mason sold his Montana ranch in 1897 and moved the family to Washington where he purchased the southeast quar-
Photos on this and facing page from the Richard Hazelmyer Collection.

of Section 8-Township 28 North-Range 42 East WM from homesteader Elmer Burton who had received the original title to the land on November 6, 1893. The Mason family called their land the "Keystone Farm" because both Charles and Irene had originally come from Pennsylvania*. Herbert and his brothers and sister attended the original one room Burroughs School on the corner of today’s Spotted and Williams Valley Roads about one-half mile east of their home.

In 1901, at age fifteen, Herbert became the head of the family when his father left to prospect for gold in the Candler, Alaska area on the north side of the Seward Peninsula. Charles Oscar didn’t return for fifteen years and then stayed for only a few months before leaving, never to return and dying in California. Herbert attended school at the first Williams Valley school on the Burroughs School site where he learned good penmanship. All of the Memoranda volumes are written in an easy to read script. Many times, dur-

* Pennsylvania’s nickname, the Keystone State, is assumed to be derived from the critical part that colony’s delegation played in the vote for American independence.
ing the school year the teacher at the school boarded at his and his mother’s house. Several times he served as director of the school.

Herbert’s Memoranda describes the hard work required to maintain a farm and support his family. The surviving daily record begins in January 1906 and ends in the fall of 1937. For reasons unknown Herbert abruptly left the area and disappeared. His Mother, Irene, continued writing daily notes in the ledgers until October 1945.

Operating a farm in the early years of the twentieth century was a year-around job starting at dawn and ending after dark. The Mason farm was not completely cleared of timber and brush so more land needed to be cleared and put into cultivation. Buildings needed maintenance and new buildings needed to be constructed. Pictures of the original farm house shows a wooden, cedar shingled building with several log structures behind it.

How many of the buildings shown in Image #5 (facing page) came with the farm purchase is uncertain but the Memoranda describes Herbert building several along with a potato cellar and adding to several of the existing buildings. The house was heated with wood cut in the surrounding forest, and water was obtained from a well. Lighting was by oil lamps as electricity wasn’t available until the 1930s.

As with all area farmers the Masons kept cows, pigs and chickens to feed themselves. These animals required daily feeding and building maintenance. Fences needed to be erected and maintained. Occasionally the farm horses would knock down a fence and it would need immediate repair.

Horses were a big part of Herbert Mason’s life. He kept large draft horses, Percherons* and Shires** and several of these horses weighed over 1500 pounds. Several times he owned registered stallions and offered them for breeding service. Over the years he boarded other farmers’ horses and recorded the sale, births and deaths of the horses he owned. Fodder crops grown on the Mason farm included timothy grass for horse feed, alfalfa, wheat, oats and potatoes (a winter cash crop). Cultivation started in the spring when the ground thawed enough to be worked. Eve-

* Described as docile though energetic in temperament, the Percheron breed of heavy draft horse, primarily black and/or grey in color, draws its name from the Perche region of northwestern France in which the type — derived from a lineage of large medieval warhorses — originated. As of the 1930s, 70% of all draft horses used in the United States were Percherons.

** The Shire draft horse, typically having a brown body color with black points — mane, tail and lower legs — was developed in England from that country’s lineage of large medieval warhorses. Calm in temperament with a willingness to work, the Shire is considered the largest of all draft-horse breeds — that according to the online version of Encyclopedia Britannica.
ry spring the fodder and the potato ground would be plowed, disked and harrowed preparing it for the new growing season. Many years Herbert would write of a potato crop killing frost in every summer month, documenting the poor growing conditions that plagued the Arcadia Orchard Company.

All farm cultivation, plowing, disk- ing, harrowing and planting was done with horse-pulled machinery. In the early portion of his Memoranda he writes of clearing the land of trees and brush and then pulling and blowing up the stumps and burning the slash piles. The Memoranda records much cooperation between the area farmers, each helping others during periods of soil preparation, crop planting and harvesting. Although not recorded in his Memoranda, the labor of each individual was repaid in kind. In addition to farming for himself, Herbert records working for a period of time at the Glen Tana Dairy Farm (see note #1) on the little Spokane River west of the present-day Spokane Country Club.

Much of Herbert’s time was spent in the logging industry using his large draft horses. Much of Williams Valley was being cleared and the logs were hauled to the local small sawmills. Some of them named in the Memoranda are Byerdorf’s mill, Gemmill’s mill, Haskin’s mill, Holden’s mill, Hutchin’s mill, Orr’s mill, Sexton’s Mill, and Swenson’s mill. Unfortunately, only three of these names can be approximately located, Sexton’s mill was located near Denison, Gemmill’s mill (see notes #2 & #3), was located west of present day Dalton Road on the south bank of Dragoon Creek and Swenson’s mill must have been on

Note:
the Swenson farm (see note #4). Herbert logged several tracts of land owned by the Arcadia Orchard Company west of his farm. In that area Joseph Hodges worked as a supervisor of the Arcadia operation (see note #5).

The largest sawmill in the area at this time was the Standard Lumber mill on the west side of Deer Park owned by the Short Family. The Memoranda’s pages describe many wagon and sled loads of logs being delivered to the mill by Herbert with many of the local farmers working together to load and haul the logs to Deer Park. In addition to hauling logs from individual farms there were several logging camps near Deer Park that Herbert took his teams to and worked hauling logs to landings and out of the woods to the mill. During the winter logs were hauled to the mill on sleds. The steam tractor “Old Buck” (Image #8) was an attempt to replace the horse teams but required special bridges across Dragoon Creek and other streams. In addition, it and the trailers it towed occasionally slipped off the specially prepared roads.

Because of the remoteness of areas to be logged, the Standard Lumber Company and other logging operators built logging camps for the loggers. Section 15—Township 29 North-Range 42 East WM had the Standard Lumber Company’s “White Pine” camp in it. Standard Lumber Company had two other camps that Herbert worked in near Tum Tum and near Horseshoe Lake. At Horseshoe Lake, Herbert writes of hauling logs to the banks of a lake formed in Little Spokane River where they were pushed into the lake. Later the dam forming the lake was opened and the logs floated down to a mill, possibly near Mil- lan.

Herbert also records hauling many loads of cord wood (four-foot-long split chunks) and loading it onto railroad cars for transport and sale to be used for heating. This cord wood was hauled from many of the area farms as well as Louis Olson, Sr.’s land north of Dahl Road west of Deer Park and delivered to both a Spokane Falls & Northern Railroad spur (Olsen’s Spur) and the Deer Park Hotel for heating.

Herbert Mason was very involved in the social life of Williams Valley and supported several beneficial projects including the construction of a telephone network (see note #6), establishment of the Williams Valley Grange (see note #7), supervising of the Williams Valley school, repair and maintenance of the local roads, and helping build the first Deer Park airport (see note #8).

After helping establish the Williams Valley Grange, Herbert helped build the first grange building and the second, and present, building. He was director of the Grange several times and also became Grange Grand Master.

The isolation and distances between farms and small towns seemed to encourage overnight stays along travel routes at various farms. Many times, several people stayed at the Mason farm for dinner and remained overnight. Several times Herbert stayed overnight at Hammón’s corner (near the intersection of Fender Road and present-day Highway 395), at the Johnny Jones’s home in the small town of Wayside or at my Great-grandparents house on Wild Rose Road (present Mike Burg- dega farm).

In addition to the fellowship of the Williams Valley Grange there were social lodges in Deer Park that Herbert mentioned attending in his diary. He sometimes walked to and from Deer Park several times in one day to attend to business and attend a lodge meeting. Among those were the Knights of Pythi-
The following proclamation has been issued by the president of the United States. The American people have always thus favored should on one day in every year, for that purpose especially appointed, publicly hereby designate and set apart Thursday, the 26th of November instant, as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, and do invoke the observance of the same by all the people of the land. On that day let all secular business be suspended, and let the people assemble in their usual places of worship and with prayer and songs of praise devoutly celebrate the many favors received from the hand of Providence. He has done for us in the year that has passed; for our preservation as a united nation and for our deliverance from the pestilence, which in other lands has claimed its dead by thousands and filled the streets with mourners; for plenteous crops which reward the labor of the people; for the preservation of health, and for the contentment throughout our borders which follows in the train of prosperity and abundance.

And let there also be on the day thus set apart a reunion of families, sanctified and chastened by tender memories and associations; and let the social intercourse of friends, with pleasant reminiscence, renew the ties of affection and strengthen the bonds of family. The most timid among our people will flee for their lives. Others will also become alarmed, and follow the example, until the highways are lined with fugitives from supposed anger. The aim, of course, would be to reach a large town, and Walla Walla would be their objective point. This citation is simply a history of times passed, when the population of this whole country has been convulsed by needless fears.

Washington (D.C.), November 1
The following proclamation has been issued by the president of the United States.

“The American people have always abundant cause for thanksgiving and praise, and all Americans, with grateful hearts, acknowledge the goodness of God and return thanks to Him for all His gracious gifts.

Therefore, I, Grover Cleveland, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate and set apart Thursday, the 26th day of November instant, as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, and do invoke the observance of the same by all the people of the land.

On that day let all secular business be suspended, and let the people assemble in their usual places of worship and with prayer and songs of praise devoutly celebrate the many favors received from the hand of Providence. He has done for us in the year that has passed; for our preservation as a united nation and for our deliverance from the pestilence, which in other lands has claimed its dead by thousands and filled the streets with mourners; for plenteous crops which reward the labor of the people; for the preservation of health, and for the contentment throughout our borders which follows in the train of prosperity and abundance.

And let there also be on the day thus set apart a reunion of families, sanctified and chastened by tender memories and associations; and let the social intercourse of friends, with pleasant reminiscences, renew the ties of affection and strengthen the bonds of family.
feeling. "And let us by no means forget while we give thanks and enjoy the comforts which have crowned our lives that truly grateful hearts are inclined to deeds of charity, and that a kind and thoughtful remembrance of the poor will double the pleasures of our condition and render our praise and thanksgiving more acceptable in the sight of the Lord.

"Done at the city of Washington, this 2nd day of November, 1885, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and tenth.

"GROVER CLEVELAND
"By the President:
"T. F. BAYARD, Secretary of State."

... televisions arrive at E. C. Weber’s store ...

Under the heading "Television Room is Added by Weber," this article appeared in the September 18th, 1952 edition of the Deer Park Union.

"Interest in television is picking up in Deer Park.

"E. C. Weber announced this week that his hardware store has been authorized to sell the Arvin and Westinghouse lines of TV. The sets, now on display, come in a variety of models, with screens ranging in size from 17 to 27 inches.

"Mr. Weber has started building a new television room in his store. It will be equipped with comfortable chairs and various models will be demonstrated in the TV room.

"Incidentally, this week marks the first time that a television advertisement has appeared in the Deer Park Union."

Spokane’s KHQ television began broadcasting a test pattern on December 8th. Test broadcasts began on December 15th. Transmission of actual programming began at 6 p.m., December 20th, 1952.

... possibly more Springdale lime kilns ...

C/DPHS president Bill Sebright, camera in hand, went in search of several as of...
yet unlocated lime kilns believed to exist in the Springdale area. At the beginning of September, last, Print Publications received the following email from Bill. “I’m not sure if these are related to Washington Brick and Lime, but, on Sunday, and I drove out past Springdale High School on Jepson Road looking for the other set of area lime kilns. We believe we located two sites. The first (Image #1) is at the bottom of the hill on Jepson Road — north of Highway 292 and east and a little north of Springdale. The second (Image #2) is about a quarter of a mile closer to Springdale.”

Anyone with any definitive information regarding these sites, information regarding any other lime burning kilns or physical artifacts within the region, or any documents, articles or other bits of history related to such is asked to contact the society.

— Wally Lee Parker —

Deer Park Locations Currently Carrying Print Copies of the Mortarboard:
- City Library
- City Hall
- Gardener’s Market
- Standen Insurance
- City Market

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported that all the Mortarboards are now online.


In attendance: Marilyn Reilly, Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Mark Wagner, Penny Hutten reported by email: On October 18, Christopher Parkin and Graham Wiley-Camacho will share their experiences as leaders of the movement to preserve and revitalize Southern Interior languages, including the founding of Salish School of Spokane, page 1766.
Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society Newsletter
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Current 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.

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 reminiscences 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. 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 in 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.

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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 professionalism, 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.

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