



Chelan County Sheriff's Office

Brian Burnett, Sheriff

Law and Justice Bldg ★ 401 Washington Street #1 ★ Wenatchee, WA 98801
Phone: (509) 667-6851 ★ Fax: (509) 667-6860

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sheriff Brian Burnett

Incident # L.E.O. Memorial Project

Phone: 509-667-6851

Date: May 14, 2015

<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/sheriff>

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Sheriff Brian Burnett reports that he attended the 28th Annual Law Enforcement Ceremony on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 in Spokane Washington. Sheriff Burnett was invited by the Law Enforcement Memorial Project coordinators to participate in the eulogy for Chelan County Sheriff's Deputy James M. Bennett.

One of the objectives for the memorial project is for them to identify any Law Enforcement Officers that have died in the line of duty within Washington State but have yet to be honored and their name added to the memorial wall.

Deputy James M. Bennett, 38 years of age, died in the line of duty on July 14, 1911 several miles north of Chelan while he and another deputy were en route to serve a warrant on a sheepherder who had been grazing his sheep on another farmer's land. During the trip, Deputy Bennett dismounted his horse to get a drink from a spring, as he leaned over; his .38 caliber Colt revolver fell from the holster and discharged. Deputy Bennett was survived by his wife Anna, sons Samuel (11), Claude (9), Carlisle (6) and his infant daughter Elsie Bennett Richardson.

James wife, Anna, passed away in 1915, from what family members stated was a broken heart and that she never fully recovered from the loss of her husband.

Integrity ★ Teamwork ★ Excellence

John Wisemore
Undersheriff

★ **Jason Mathews** ★
Chief of Special Operations

Dave Helvey
Chief of Patrol

★ **Valerie Karnes** ★
Chief Civil Deputy

Jan Brincat
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By the assistance of staff from the Wenatchee Valley Museum, Sheriff Burnett was able to make contact with a grandson of James Bennett and son to Elsie Bennett Richardson, Rich Richardson of Chelan.

Rich Richardson traveled to Spokane with Sheriff Burnett where they attended the ceremony along with a great granddaughter, and granddaughter to Claude Bennett, Karinna Montee and her Son Axel who reside in the Tri Cities area. Also in attendance was another great grandson, Pat Freil.

Although it was long overdue, nearly 104 years later, it was well worth the time spent; to honor those and their families who had made the ultimate sacrifice for the citizens they served.

Deputy James Bennett joins both Chelan County Sheriff's Deputy Scott Edie and Deputy Saul Gallegos who all have their names engraved on the memorial wall in Spokane.

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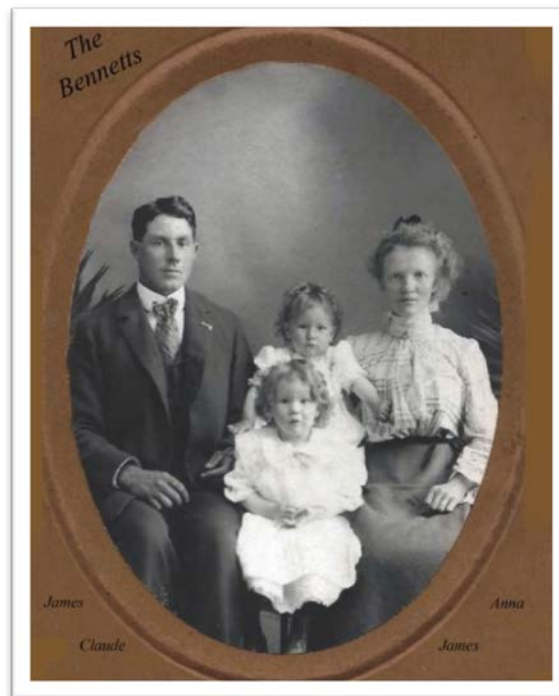
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