



# Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

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Neihart, Cascade County  
Masthead: Bannack

Photo: TERRY HALDEN  
Photo: DARIAN HALDEN

## Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

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Founded in 1969, the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public to the benefits of preserving the historic buildings, sites, and artifacts that make up the living history of Montana.

Opinions expressed in the bylined articles are the authors' and do not necessarily represent the views of the M. G. T. P. S.

### Winter 2013

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# The Prez Sez

TERRY HALDEN

First of all I have the pleasure to introduce you to the newest member of your board, Jolene Hintz, a student at MSU, who will be graduating, with a degree in Sociology, next May. Jolene, who was recently married, will be taking over the duties as Webmaster from Dick Lee and the Facebook from Meg McWhinney. Welcome aboard Jolene.

Recently Darian, our membership chairperson sent out reminders to those of our members who might have forgotten to renew their membership. The response was good, but for those of you who didn't renew, this unfortunately will be your last edition of the newsletter. As mentioned in the last newsletter, your membership will run until December 31, 2013 now that we are on a calendar year. We promise not to bug you again about membership until, at least, next fall! However if you may know of any friends or relations that might be interested in joining us, *please* contact Don, our promotion chairman at [donblack76@hotmail.com](mailto:donblack76@hotmail.com)

In case you hadn't noticed, this issue of the newsletter is about a month late. Instead of fighting the Christmas mail rush every year, I've switched the issue dates to Jan. Apr. July and Oct.

On page 11 of this newsletter you will find a little 'teaser' as I've put a few black and white photos taken at our recent convention. If you want to take a look at all the photos our photographers took, in COLOR you will have to go to our website, [www.mtghosttown.org](http://www.mtghosttown.org) and pick 'convention'. For those of you that don't dabble on the computer, sorry, but the cost of producing a twelve page newsletter, completely in color is, unfortunately, prohibitive.

Meantime, in this issue, I must thank Kim Briggeman for allowing us to reprint her article about Charles Schafft, a member of Lt. Mullan's road building crew in 1862, who survived severe injuries and went on to an interesting life. The article first appeared in the Missoula Magazine, last winter where Ms. Briggeman is a staff writer. Also in the newsletter is an article from John Phillips, whom you will remember was the school teacher in Bannack, during our convention. John writes about the problems Sydney Edgerton had in

getting Washington to agree to make Montana a territory in 1863. Tom Lowe has an article about interesting news snippets he has gleaned from old Dillon newspapers and Mike Byrnes sent me an article from the Butte Montana Standard of 1903 about the original six men that discovered gold in Alder Gulch in 1863. Finally, yours truly, this summer had an opportunity to join the 'Dean of History' in Broadwater County, John Stoner, who guided me to the remains of the Gopher Hole CCC camp. Without John's four-wheel drive and knowledge of the area, I would never have found it. I expect some criticism from John as I have the audacity to write a historical article (however short) about Broadwater County.

Finally, I'll take this opportunity to wish you all.....

*A HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR.*

Terry

### New Members

Membership Chairperson Darian reports the following **New Members** have joined our Association since the last newsletter. **Please make them welcome.**

Gary & Sallie Clinard, Las Vegas, NV. Gini Norton, Kalispell, MT. Jim & Dottie Maitland, Bigfork, MT

Vickie Leveque, Kalispell, MT Garnet Preservation Association, c/o Rita Boettcher, Missoula, MT

Doreen Chaky, Williston, N.D.

Wayne & Antje Cormier, Parry Sound, ON, Canada

M.G.T.P.S.

Minutes of the Board Meeting, November 3, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm. by President Terry Halden.

Those also present were: Mike Byrnes, Sally Griffin, Loretta Chapman, Darian Halden, Dick Lee, Don Black, Sue Howe, Gord Tracy and Jolene Hiltz.

A guest, Jolene Hintz, a prospective new Board Member, was introduced. It was moved and seconded that she be made a Board Member. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Gordon Tracy announced that today was his 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. He was given our hearty congratulations.

The minutes from the previous Board Meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Loretta's report was accepted as presented. Mike Byrnes suggested that with a checking account balance of \$4,000, we might want to transfer some money to savings. Loretta pointed out that interest is so minimal at this time that it probably wouldn't be worth doing.

Secretary's Report: Sally said that: (1) We received a post card from the Bozeman Area Community Foundation inviting someone from our group to attend a workshop on Nov. 13 about applying for grants. No action was taken. (2) A letter from the Bannack Association was received thanking us for our generous donation to help in restoring and maintaining their buildings. (3) A letter was received from the Virginia City Preservation Alliance asking for a donation for the programs they are planning for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in May, 2013. This request will be taken up under New Business.

Membership Report: We have 81 unpaid renewals out of 248 members. Reminder postcards have been prepared and are ready to mail. There was some discussion about different or better ways to handle reminders to people about dues. The post cards could have a friendlier tone. We could send a letter instead of a card, explaining the change in our end-of-year membership date. Since new reminder postcards had just been printed and they were all filled out ready to go, it was decided to just go ahead with the postcards this year and see what reaction we get. We will explore other options next year.

Recruitment: Don Black hasn't had any requests for people to contact for new memberships. Perhaps this method isn't going to work. Several ideas were discussed. We could have people speak at luncheon groups like Rotary. We could have bumper stickers made up. Don is going to check on prices for this.

Facebook: Darian said that we have a Facebook page and group. Our page is there so that anyone can look us up and see what we are about. Our group is 'closed', meaning you have to gain permission to join.

Webmaster: Dick Lee said that we now have pictures from the convention posted on our website. Our new Board Member Jolene will help him in making changes and improvements to the website.

Projects: Sue Howe commended us for the generous donation to Bannack. She needs input for more projects. One thing she would like to do is something with the large number of old slides we have, many of which were taken in the '60's. Mike Byrnes will put them on DVD's, making copies for us and then give them to the Montana Historical Society in Helena..

Newsletter: Terry Halden said the next issue will go out early in December. He is looking for one more article to include. Don Black said he could provide one.

Convention: Terry reported that we took in \$4,330 and spent slightly less, for a profit of approximately \$200.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Terry, who is heading the convention, told us that the 2013 convention will be in Helena. A guided tour on Sunday of Charter Oak and possibly another mine and mill in the area has already been confirmed. Saturday's program and base motel is still in the works.

For the 2014 convention, Lewistown is the preferred site at this point. Don Black will check with the Yogo Inn. There may be a problem because the Chokecherry Festival there is set for the same weekend. Don knows 4 local people who would help out, and there are many ghost towns in the area to see. The one drawback would be the weather. If it rains, the dirt roads quickly turn to gumbo and vehicles easily get stuck. Don will report on the possibilities and problems for consideration at the next meeting.

Don is also thinking about putting together photo tours for next summer. They could be the Madison Valley or Lewistown area. If we rent a bus with driver, that would eliminate liability issues. The tours could be on a weekend day or maybe a Friday. We will talk about it more when the time gets closer.

The letter requesting a donation to the Virginia City Preservation Alliance was discussed. It was decided to wait until we had more definite information on how the money would be spent.

A question was asked about what was going on with Fort Connah. Terry said that he had sent an email and they were going to send him a report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sally Griffin, Secretary



The following is reprinted, with permission from the MISSOULA MAGAZINE

*In 1861 Lt. Mullan and his crew was constructing his wagon road from Ft. Walla Walla to Ft. Benton but when the brutally cold winter of 1861/62 hit, everything came to a halt just east of present day Missoula at Hell Gate. This is the story of one.....*

## FRONTIER SURVIVOR

Most of the men were dispersed to four smaller winter camps up the Hell Gate River (Clark Fork) to make mountain sidecuts and whatever other improvements they could manage in the harsh conditions.

"I here mention with regret a sad accident that occurred to a citizen in passing from one to another of our camps, and which will tend to show the degree of cold we experienced during January," Mullan wrote in his official report in 1863. "The unnamed citizen left on foot, intending to walk to the Deer Lodge Valley," he said. "Night and severe cold overtaking him before he could reach another camp, he halted to build a fire, and being wet endeavored to slip off his moccasins, when he found them frozen to his feet. He became alarmed, and retracing his steps reached a point he had started from, late at night, but with both feet frozen, and on their being thawed in a tub of water all the flesh fell off. The poor fellow suffered intensely, and his life was only saved by his suffering the amputation of both legs above the knees. The expedition's surgeon, Dr George Hammond, performed the surgery in March. A purse of several hundred dollars was raised for the legless man, and he was left to the kind charity of the fathers of the Pend d'Oreille (St Ignatius) mission, where he remained up to the date of our leaving the mountains."

Thus ended the famous road-builder's account of the tribulations of Charles Schafft. But Schafft's life and times in western Montana were only beginning. Disabled as he was, the German-born Schafft lived 29 more years and led a mesmerizing and varied life as Montana went from frontier to territory to state.

Schafft didn't receive his first set of artificial legs – from Philadelphia for \$300 – until 1867. In the meantime, he was appointed Missoula County's first clerk and recorder and one of its first two justices of the peace when the county was established in the newly formed Montana Territory. Schafft was elected to both unpaid posts but resigned them early in 1866, the positions being taken over by Frank H. Woody.

He then served as clerk for the Jesuit missionary Anthony Ravalli at Hell Gate Mission, and copied a Flathead-to-English dictionary for Father Urban Grassi at St Ignatius. Schafft partnered in Missoula's earliest years with pioneer Frank Woody to build a house and in later years lived for a time at "Baron" Cornelius O'Keefe's castle at the foot of Evero Hill.

Through the years he kept books for hotels, merchants, attorneys and freighting companies, penned diplomas for Missoula's early schools, and clerked at various times at the Flathead Agency in the Jocko Valley. Schafft spent several winters in the 1860s and early 1870s in charge

by Kim Briggeman

of government property at the agency when the appointed agents left the mountains. He fled to Alberta in 1874 to avoid testifying during the federal "Indian Ring" investigation of one of the agents.

In Canada, he peddled illicit whiskey at Fort Whoop-Up (present day Lethbridge) and, by his account, outwitted Col James Macleod and the newly formed Mounties. Macleod, he said, showed up to drive out the booze peddlers with cannon and needle guns, only to find "a cripple as second in command, and six or seven peaceable looking citizens." Schafft wrote, the fort's liquor supply, he noted wryly, "was cached on the bottom of the Belly River."

Though his schooling apparently all came in his first 10 years in Berlin, Schafft was an accomplished writer and artist. In sketches, newspaper stories and a late-in-life memoir, he documented Montana's formative years. In one of his few ventures outside Missoula County, Schafft spent more than a year in the late 1870s at Fort Benton, where he worked for the Benton Record, keeping the books and wrote a series of "literary contributions." The first was a reminiscence of his time with Mullan.

Not yet 15 years old in April 1853, Charles Schafft was described in Army enlistment records at 5 feet, 3 inches tall with blue eyes and sandy hair. The Missoula Gazette, at the time of his death from pneumonia in 1891, said the deceased was unmarried, "very popular and leaves a host of friends." He was also an alcoholic.

"A Jesuit father once told that every man has his fault or failing," Schafft wrote in later life. "I have mine - a habit of drinking 'fire water,' a habit adopted in early youth and nourished by frontier life and usage. It has led me into a great many comical adventures and some serious ones. It also made me some enemies, but none greater than myself."



Frank H. Woody in Hell Gate.

Photo MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

Those reflections were made in 1887, when Schafft sat down to write a sketch of his life at Bass Mill north of Stevensville. The memoir, on 18 legal-sized pages, was not published until the Winter, 1976 edition of the Montana Historical Society's "Montana: The Magazine of Western History" brought it to light.

Schafft wrote that he was born June 25, 1838, in Berlin, then part of Prussia. He was a survivor from the start, raised and schooled by his mother after his father, a merchant, left for the United States when Charlie was 2 years old. At age 11, Schafft was sent alone to New York City to join his father, who by then was an importer of liquors and fancy groceries. Three years later he enlisted in the U S Army as a "learning musician"- a drummer boy, according to the Missoula Gazette's account of his death on March 19, 1891.

After one sea disaster – the steamship San Francisco wrecked off Cape Hatteras, NC, killing 250 of the 700 passengers – and a false start on another that floundered off the Virginia coast, Schafft and his company found themselves crossing the Isthmus of Panama on mules in the spring of 1854. They reached the old mission in San Diego by his 16th birthday, and Schafft spent the remaining four years of his Army hitch escorting the Southern Pacific Railroad Survey in California, Arizona and New Mexico, and guarding against Indian troubles at Fort Yuma, Arizona, before his honorable discharge in April 1858.

Schafft was in San Francisco when word came of a gold strike on the Fraser River in Western Canada. He was headed there via steamer when he met Mullan and was persuaded to throw in with the first road-building expedition. That one started in 1858 at The Dalles, but made it only to the Snake River because of Indian troubles ahead. Mullan reorganized in 1859, and Schafft attached himself to the military escort at Fort Vancouver, where he took charge of the military escort's herd of beef cattle. He drove the cattle, or what was left of them, as far as the 1859-60 winter camp, Cantonment Jordan, near today's DeBorgia, Montana.

Schafft returned to the west slope with a handful of other civilians, apparently walking through deep snow on the pass. By spring he'd hoofed it to Walla Walla, then down to The Dalles on the Columbia River, where he caught a steamer to the Willamette Valley and farmed there for the next year. By 1861 he was back with Mullan, this time as clerk to sutler William Terry, and began the cold, fateful winter in that role at Cantonment Wright.

Schafft's job on the Blackfoot was not to help build the four-span, 235-foot bridge, nor was he apparently assigned as the sutler's clerk to feed the men in the four camps spaced strategically up the Hell Gate. He did get in on a little piece of history a few weeks before his disastrous walk. Late in December two horse thieves, Butler and Williams, escaped up the river and Mullan authorized Schafft and two other men to retrieve them. They captured Butler at Johnny Grant's ranch at the mouth of the Little Blackfoot, and Williams 10 miles further on near what's now the town of Deer Lodge on Christmas Eve. Schafft and others characterized them as

the first official arrests in what became Montana. There was no jury trial – the closest court was hundreds of miles away at Walla Walla. Mullan had the two men chained together at the legs and set to digging rocks to fill the piers of the Blackfoot bridge. "In the spring they were set at liberty with some good advice for their future guidance," Schafft wrote.

It's unclear why Schafft set out alone and on foot from the winter encampment on Jan 8, 1862. Schafft said he wasn't under any government contract. He certainly didn't plan to take the mail to Salt Lake. He made it 20 miles up the canyon to Rocky Point, near the mouth of Rock Creek, before becoming snowbound for nearly a week in the second working camp. On the morning of Jan 15 (1862) he resumed his journey through "light feathery snow nearly three feet deep and too light to bear snowshoes." In January 1862 there were no bridges across the Hell Gate. Schafft crossed where a lone one would soon stretch at the foot of Medicine Tree Hill, just west of the Bearmouth Area Exit on Interstate 90. He then followed the road over the hill. Descending on the other side, Schafft broke through the ice on a slough. He struggled in wet clothes to regain the river bank as evening set in. The thermometer, he learned later, registered 40 below zero that night. Schafft built a fire and resolved to return to the last camp, but in a near-fatal irony, he had to wait to cross the river until the water- weakened ice froze up enough to bear him. Finally, after two or three hours, he made the crossing and began plodding – trees cracking and timber wolves howling – back to the nearest soldier camp east of Beavertail Hill.

"At daylight I discovered that both my feet were frozen solidly up to the ankle (sic) joint where the moccasin strings were tied and I had yet four miles to make and partly along the side of a steep hill," he recalled. Schafft finally reached camp by 8 am and "the usual cold water and salt remedy was at once applied and the feet thawed out." But no one knew what to do then. Before a messenger could return with medicines and advice, mortification had already set in. Mullan sent a detail of soldiers and citizen volunteers, including O'Keefe, to fetch Schafft in a sled. But it took three days to make the 20 miles back to Cantonment Wright. Even then there was more agony. Dr Hammond was snowed in at Fort Owen in the Bitterroot Valley and didn't arrive for a week. "When he came my case was hopeless," reported Schafft, who by then was knocking on death's door. "Being too weak to be performed upon at once, the inevitable operation was delayed until the 7th and 8th of March, when both of my legs were successfully amputated within six inches of the knee joints and I was henceforth a cripple."

Mullan had only some of Schafft's story correct. The amputations Hammond performed were not above the knees but below. Under Grassi's care, Schafft recovered enough by October to get around on his knees, he wrote, "so that I could render some slight service and amuse myself by painting pictures in oils of the Virgin Mary and some of the Saints."

The spirit of a frontier survivor burned bright.

Unfortunately, there is no known photograph of Charles Schafft - Ed.

# CONGRESS and the DEBATE to CREATE MONTANA TERRITORY

by John Phillips

Following the discovery of gold at Bannack (July 1862) and Virginia City (May 1863) the population of Idaho Territory east of the continental divide boomed. Travel to the seat of government in Lewiston was difficult at best, and nearly impossible for half the year because of snow. Normal government functions (law enforcement, courts, road building, etc.) were non-existent. The region was wide open, crime and vice flourished, and conflict with various tribes always seemed to be looming on the horizon. Separated from the seat of government by daunting mountains residents of Idaho's eastern mining communities decided to seek a government of their own.

The man chosen to go to Washington and appeal to Congress was Sidney Edgerton, who arrived in Bannack with his family in September 1863. In January he was heading east with gold in his pockets to explain to Congress the necessity of creating a new territory. Edgerton who only recently had been appointed Chief Justice of Idaho Territory was a political insider. He knew Lincoln and James Ashley, who presided over the Committee on Territories in the House of Representatives. There was probably no better choice than Edgerton to lobby for the creation of Montana Territory.

On March 17, 1864 the Territorial Legislature of Idaho sent a memorial to Congress asking for the division of the territory, and asked that the new territory be called Jefferson. Between the efforts of Edgerton and the memorial from the legislature the organization of a new territory seemed assured. Residents were worried about crime, courts, mail, and protection from Indians. They sought government to create order and regulate commercial interaction. Little did they know that issues related to the Civil War almost delayed the creation of Montana Territory.

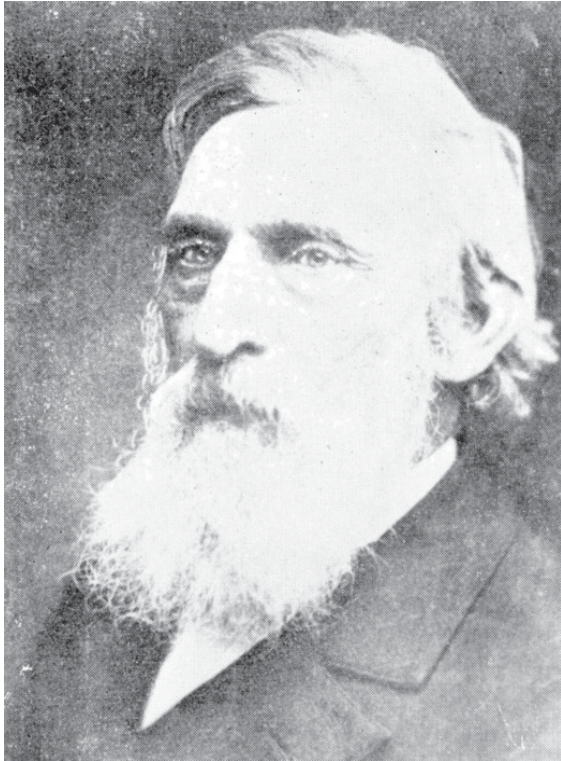
The debate began in the House of Representatives when James Ashley from Ohio proposed the new territory be called "Montana." Mr. Cox, also from Ohio, opposed the name because he didn't know what it meant. Ashley responded that it was Spanish "meaning mountainous." Mr. Washburne of Illinois then suggested that Ashley call the territory "Abyssinia" after an ancient African kingdom. The House broke out in laughter, but his suggestion seemed to reflect the suffrage debate still to come in the Senate. Cox suggested an Indian name, perhaps 'Shoshone.' Mr. Bennett of Colorado responded it meant "snake" which was followed by laughter. Cox came back saying, "I believe it means copperhead," a derogatory term for anti-war Democrats. Cox then referred to the memorial of the Idaho Legislature proposing the new territory be called "Jefferson," but Ashley opposed it. Since Republicans opposed "Jefferson" Cox proposed "Douglas Territory...because [he] thought it would suit..." both parties; the Republicans having "Frederick Douglas," and the Democrats "a white man, who we

reverenced, by that name." (Referring to 1860 Democratic Presidential candidate Stephen Douglas) The debate over the proposed territory's name ended with Mr. Webster of Maryland saying "I think every father has a right to name his own child, and as this bill is the progeny of the Committee on Territories I think they have every right to name it...It is a family matter." The name debate was over. It was humorous and it reflected political divisions created by the Civil War, but it did not compare to the intensity of the debate in the Senate surrounding the issue of suffrage in the proposed territory.

The debate over the creation of Montana Territory heated up in the Senate on March 30, 1864, when Senator Wilkinson of Minnesota proposed an amendment to the enabling act that would replace the phrase "white male inhabitant," with "male citizen of the United States and those who have declared their intention to become such...shall be entitled to vote..." Wilkinson opened a can of worms. He was effectively removing the color barrier by offering African Americans the right to vote, and possibly setting precedent for future legislation. Mr. Johnson of Maryland quickly grasped that the intention of the amendment was "to admit to the elective franchise...black men as well as white." Up till the introduction of the Wilkinson Amendment the Montana bill had very little opposition, but the idea of providing blacks the right to vote generated heated opposition. Mr. Johnson came back saying that the bill may be intended to provide black men the right to vote but by the Supreme Court's decision in the Dred Scott case (1857) "that a person of African descent is not a citizen of the United States," and thus would not be entitled to vote. For some of the more radical Republican elements in Congress the amendment was an initial attempt to provide fundamental rights to recently freed slaves and challenge the court's decision in Dred Scott. Mr. Pendleton recognized that the amendment was intended to "overrule that decision (Dred Scott) and to provide that all persons, of whatever color, who are otherwise qualified...the right to vote..."

The Senate passed the Wilkinson Amendment, but the House refused to consider it. Not only was the issue of African American suffrage holding up the creation of Montana Territory, it also threatened to defeat the entire bill. Mr. Doolittle of Wisconsin didn't think the time was right to force the issue because it was "the merest abstraction...because there [was] not a negro in the Territory...it has no practical bearing or effect." Mr. Hale of New Hampshire disagreed, saying "it seems to me that this question is one that we can meet and grapple with at the present time better than we can at any time in the future, because now it is unembarrassed by the prejudices of a population that have been already educated under this inhuman and unchristian code." Mr. Trumbull of Illinois made the point that the "bill does not propose to fix fundamentally and forever the right of suffrage in the Territory. It is to have no





Sidney Edgerton.

Photo from MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

operation except at the first election." He was right. The Territorial Legislature would have the power to "fix the right of suffrage," but if elements favorable to the suffrage cause and African American residents could carry the first election they would have the ability to effect the organization of the territory and determine the qualifications for voters in the future.

The debate continued and threatened the organization of Montana Territory. They debated if recently released slaves were citizens, and they debated if providing the right to vote to blacks serving in the military would it alienate loyal men. The issue of suffrage threatened to defeat the bill to organize Montana. In committee, on May 19, 1864 the Senate dropped the Wilkinson Amendment, thus keeping with precedent and disenfranchising African Americans. Some of the more radical elements of the Republican Party like Charles Sumner refused to give in believing "that the statement of that principle at this moment [was] more important than the bill."

Sumner and other Radical Republicans would not compromise, but more moderate elements of the Republican Party conceded on the Wilkinson Amendment and "excluded colored men" from voting rather than risk the entire bill. On May 26, 1864 Montana Territory was organized. The enabling act excluded African Americans from voting, but Congress corrected the situation on January 25, 1867 passing "An Act to Regulate the Elective Franchise in the Territories," which prohibited the territories from denying persons of color the right to vote.

From the Montana Standard, Butte, Dec. 20 1903

## What Became of the Six Men Who Discovered Gold in Alder Gulch?

What was the subsequent history of the six men who discovered gold in Alder Gulch?

That question has often been asked and it is not often correctly answered. However, Henry E. Edgar, one of the six and the only one still living in Montana (he now has a ranch 66 miles from Missoula) was in Butte last week, and gave his story of what happened to his companions after they had discovered the yellow metal in Alder Gulch from which it was estimated that from \$80,000,000 to \$120,000,000 in gold was taken from the day of discovery up to 1865, when the boom was over. Of all these millions it was a small portion of one million that went into the pockets of the original discoverers, Edgar said.

The six original discoverers of gold in the gulch are Harry Rogers, William Sweeney, Bill Fairweather, Thomas Cover, Barney Hughes and Edgar.

Asked what became of his companions on that trip to Alder Gulch which resulted in their finding gold there on May 28, 1863, Edgar answered a Standard reporter as follows:

"Harry Rogers went back to Newfoundland and died there. He was comfortably off; probably he had \$30,000.

"William Sweeney is a New Brunswick man and went back there. He took back with him from \$30,000 to \$40,000 and knew enough to take care of his money.

"Bill Fairweather was from St. John, New Brunswick. After the boom was over he went to San Francisco and blew in most of his money. Then he went to Peace River, where he lost the rest of it. He came back to Montana broke. He died within 12 or 15 miles of Alder Gulch on Peter Daly's ranch. His death was due to consumption brought about by excessive drinking. Bill Fairweather was the best man I ever met. He was the noblest of friends and as true as steel. . . . My chief wish is that when I die I be buried along side of him.

"Thomas Cover spent all his money and a lot more that he borrowed. He and Bud McAndrew and Dave Bently built a sawmill on Granite Gulch and made much money. Afterwards, they started a

grist mill, but lost money. Cover went to California and it was reported he died out on the Mohave desert in southern California. I never believed the story, however, but think he is still alive. He was a native of Ohio.

"Barney Hughes was robbed if his money. He made a lot of it in the gulch and had five or six purses pretty well filled. He gave them to a trusted friend to take to San Francisco to turn into coin. The money, I have been told, was put into a brick building on Market street in 'Frisco, and when Barney went down there the friend didn't know him and never gave him any of it. I don't know where Barney is now. He never seemed right in his head after that. I advised him to sue for the money and we would all go down and swear to seeing him give the money, but he never would. Hughes was a native of Ireland."

Asked if the discoverers were pretty strong drinking men, Edgar replied:

"Fairweather was the only hard drinker in the gang. I never took a drink while in Alder Gulch. Sweeney never took a drink or gambled a dollar in the gulch. He spent no money at all except for the bare necessities and saved everything. Hughes, Rogers and Cover drank some. James Fergus and myself were the only people in the gulch at that time, I guess, who didn't drink or gamble. One week I paid fines for Bill Fairweather amounting to \$700. I went around every Monday morning and paid the company bills in the saloons and stores."

Edgar has never been out of the state since he was in Alder Gulch he said. He lost his Alder Gulch money in the butchering business through trusting too many people for meat and loaning where he never secured a return. He also lost quite a little in quartz mining in early days in Montana. However, he has a comfortable ranch home and he and his wife have all they want for the balance of their days. Having no children Edgar, at the annual meeting of the Montana Pioneers at Great Falls a few months ago, said that he would leave all his property to the Society of Montana Pioneers. (Dec. 20, 1903.)



# A LOOK BACK at STORIES in the DILLON TRIBUNE

by Tom Lowe

When I have the time, I enjoy spending time in the archives of the Dillon Tribune and the Dillon Examiner. Many colorful, entertaining stories can be found relating to Bannack. The following are examples of some interesting stories gleaned from the papers' archives. Tragedy was a staple of the early news papers and the reader was treated to all the gory details as may be described in the Dillon Tribune May 8, 1898.

*A serious accident occurred on the F.L. Graves dredge boat last Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. V. Tingley, Wm. Mathews, Homer Tash and Frank Sherwood were working on deck with a large pump when the accident occurred. Mr. Sherwood turned around and stepped into a hole and fell, striking his head against the edge of the well on deck. He had a cold chisel in his hand when he fell and it gave him a cut in the neck close to the jugular vein. He has been unconscious since the accident. At this writing (Wednesday morning) he did not know anyone.*

This is a classic example of how slow news traveled at the time. The author of this news article, at the time of the writing, did not realize that Mr. Frank Sherwood had already died. We know by the date on the Frank Sherwood tombstone that he died the same day of the accident.

On January 24, 1917, this sad story made the front page.

*A terrible tragedy occurred at Bannack at three o'clock yesterday afternoon in which the two little children of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Coziah were partially burned to death and died before they could be rescued. In the fire that cost the children their lives the Coziah home was burned to the ground. It is not known how the fire started, but the fact that both children had their feet almost burned off, points to the theory that it must have started in the floor.*

*Mrs. Coziah had just left her little home, a four-room frame house in the north end of the town of Bannack, to cross the street on an errand. She left her two babes in the house. Two fires were burning at the time, one in the cook stove and one in the heating stove in the living room. Before leaving Mrs. Coziah closed both stoves. The mother had been gone less than five minutes when she returned to find her home in a blaze and knew that her children were being burned to death. Her scream brought neighbors to her assistance and after frantic and heroic efforts the bodies of the little ones were rescued but not before they had been horribly burned and charred. Mr. and Mrs. Coziah have been residents of Bannack for about a year, the husband and father being employed as a teamster for the Bannack Mining Company. The two children lost in the fire were the only ones they had. One was a boy, Clifford, aged about four years, and the other a girl, Jessie, who had just learned to walk. To the stricken mother and heart-broken father the sincere sympathy of the entire community is extended.*

The lighter side of the news was not neglected as can be read in this June 25, 1897 story. A fishing and prospecting trip by four Bannack men was deemed important enough to be included in the newspaper. It is interesting to note what the essentials were.



*Harry Stevenson, Eugene Keppler, Walter Helbling and Joe Jagers went to Bloody Dick on a fishing and prospecting trip. Their bill of fare consisted of one loaf of bread, one can of beans, one box of beer, and four gallons of whisky.*

Davy Morgan was a colorful citizen of Bannack in her early days. One story about Davy occurred after the hanging of Sheriff Henry Plummer and his deputies Buck Stinson and Ned Ray by the Vigilantes. This is the account as it appeared in January 15, 1910 issue.

*After the execution the bodies of Plummer and Stinson were placed in an empty cabin. Along about midnight Wm. Roe happened to look toward the cabin and was surprised to see a light appear, then disappear and again appear. This happened some half dozen times and he went to make an investigation as to what the "ghostly light" was. He found Davy Morgan, a well-known character of Bannack, in the cabin lighting matches and looking at the faces of the dead highwaymen, and as usual, was pretty well intoxicated. Asked what he was doing there, he replied: "I (hic) just wanted to (hic) take a squint at the (hic) bloomin, bloody beggars."*

Another story with Davy as the lead character happened a number of years later and this also was printed in the same story of January 15, 1910.

*Davy Morgan became more and more addicted to whiskey drinking until he finally became a nuisance around Bannack and one day was told by several of the gang in the saloon, where Davy had been "pan-handling" drinks, that the question of hanging him on Plummer's scaffold was being earnestly agitated by Bannack citizens. The information apparently made an impression on Davy's mind, for the next morning the scaffold was found lying on the ground, both upright posts having been chopped off close to the ground. Davy readily owned up to the act, saying: "Damned if I was going to be hanged on Plummer's scaffold."*

Bannack's citizens were a tough lot and didn't take kindly to outside interference with their business operations. This article ran on the front page of the Dillon Tribune May 4, 1906.



Bannack held a "paint party last Friday, night in which a young man named Ray Harris, said to be from Salt Lake City, was the star actor. The news of the occurrence did not reach Dillon until Saturday afternoon, when Charles Nelson, the stage driver, arrived in Dillon, as the telephone wire connecting Dillon and Bannack was cut. The wire was spliced together early Saturday evening and then more particulars were phoned over. The story of just what happened and what prompted the "paint Party" has been rather hard to get in all particulars, but as near as can be judged merely from heresay and information gathered from this one and that one from Bannack it all was about as follows:

F.B. Felt, of Chicago, bought the Graeter gold dredge a few weeks ago, as was announced at the time in the Tribune. He also purchased quite a lot of placer ground and located upon some more over which his boat would have to travel before it reached the best ground. Active work in getting the boat into shape for operation has been going steadily on the employment has been given a number of the Bannack people with a prospect of even more being employed. In short Bannack is experiencing a revival and the business of the merchants has been picking up a bit.

It seems that certain parties, whom Bannack people name as John J. Cusick, Ray Harris and perhaps another man in Butte, learned that Bannack is on unsurveyed ground, that there was a patch or two of some size over which the boat would have to dig before the good ground was reached and apparently these men thought that they could "jump" this ground and demand a good sum from Mr. Felt for the privilege of digging over it. All Bannack people put it that way, and say that the ground was taken up with no view of being developed by the locators, and if Mr. Felt refused to "dig up" he would very likely be compelled to stop future plans for operating the dredge boat, which would mean that Bannack and her people would be greatly injured.

Harris and Cusick, accompanied by C.W. Robison of Dillon are said to have done the work of surveying the claims and staking them out sometime about midnight on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Robinson was called to Bannack by these men to fix up the legal papers. That is the way it is told to the Tribune and we publish it as heresay. At any rate the work was done at night rather than in daylight. Then Harris was left in Bannack. We are told that the Bannack people advised Harris several times to pull up his stakes and take down his notices or there would be trouble and that in turn Harris told them that he and his partners had acted legally and in accordance with the legal advice of Attorney Robinson, and he therefore ignored the warning.

Last Friday Harris retired to his room in the O'Neal hotel about 8 o'clock. Sometime around 9:30 o'clock there was a knock at the hotel door and when it was answered by Mrs. O'Neal, she found four masked men standing there. They asked for Harris. She told Harris he was wanted, but he surmised something was wrong and refused to go out. The men then went after him and found him hidden under the bed. He was pulled from his hiding place and reports say

that he was taken to the big irrigation ditch and "ducked good and plenty," that he was compelled to pull up all stakes around the claims, take down the notice and was then escorted to the dredge boat above Bannack and a generous coat of red paint was applied. One report says that he was divested of all wearing apparel before the paint was applied, while another report says that the paint was applied on his under clothes with a few swipes around his neck to top it out. He was then released and given time to leave town.

No one seems to know where he went and Harris won't tell who gave him assistance. One report says he walked about six miles up the Grasshopper where enough sympathy was found to help him get in shape to again appear in public. Anyway the first seen of him was on the road between Bannack and Dillon Monday morning and he came on to Dillon and immediately, engaged C.W. Robinson to assist in the prosecution, swore out warrants for seventeen of Bannack's citizens, charging them with assault in the first degree. The Tribune could obtain no interview from him. When asked as to who was concerned in the matter of filing on the placer claims, he said: "I was. Don't I look it?" and his blackened and swelled eye certainly called for an affirmative reply. He said Cusick was not interested in any manner in the matter. He would not say who was interested outside of himself, nor would he talk about his experience at all.

Sheriff Gist phoned to the Bannack people Tuesday morning that warrants for their arrest were out and a number of them immediately came over. The others were to have come Wednesday. When they arrived the Bannackites immediately took a change of venue to Justice of the Peace Sam Jagger's court on Horse Prairie. Perhaps Harris didn't like the idea of going out of Dillon to push the prosecution. Anyway he immediately withdrew the charges against the Bannack people and they returned to there homes over the mountain. If future proceedings are contemplated we have not heard of them. It is quite likely that the Bannack people will be left in peace and free to be benefited by the capital invested there that really means business and looks to the advancement of prosperity on the old camp.

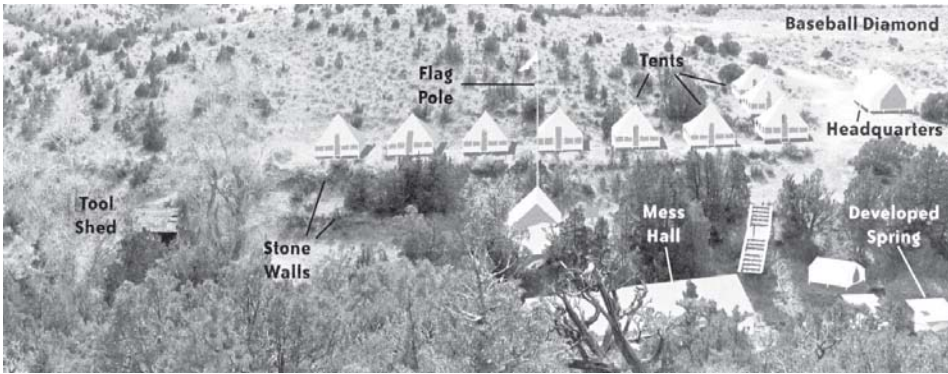
We understand the Harris is a newspaperman and that when he came to Dillon a few weeks ago in company with John Cusick he stated that he had been engaged as reporter on the Salt Lake Tribune, that he was merely taking a layoff and was incidentally looking for something to write about. He found a theme.

Many more fascinating stories may be found in the old newspapers from yesteryear. Much insight into the lives of Beaverhead County residents can be found in the dusty, old, yellowed pages of the Dillon Tribune for the researcher patient enough to peruse these old stories.



# GOPHER HOLE CCC CAMP

by Terry Halden



How the Gopher Hole CCC camp looked in its heyday

Tents on pallets

Both photos courtesy the MONTANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, working with Congress, in response to the drastic unemployment of the Great Depression, proposed in 1933, the creation of the Emergency Conservation Work Program, which came to be known as the Civilian Conservation Corps or CCC. Young men, between the ages of 17 and 28, unmarried, unemployed, physically fit, from families on relief were provided with transportation, room and board, clothing, medical care and were 'enlisted' for a period of six months or longer. They were given conservation work in the numerous forests throughout the U.S. This entailed, first building a camp, with its many buildings such as mess hall, kitchen, tool shop, shower house and often sleeping billets. What followed was an extensive clean-up of the surrounding brush, laying out trails, forest fire fighting etc. The men were paid between \$30 and \$45 a month, with most, if not all of the money being sent home to the enrollee's family. There were several camps established in Montana, one of which was Gopher Hole, south west of Townsend in Broadwater County in 1939. It had few amenities, with nine wooden pallets for tents to be set on, a mess hall, a tool shop and a shower house. A crude baseball diamond was constructed just west of the camp for recreational purposes.

With the advent of World War II, the experiment came to an end as young men flocked to enlist in the military and many of the camps, Gopher Hole included, became 'ghost towns'. Today, the flat area where the tents were set up is apparent, together with remains of the tool shed whose walls, along with the graffiti they have accumulated over the years, still bears the signatures of the original CCC men who erected them.



Photos of the Gopher Hole CCC camp, August 2012. TERRY HALDEN

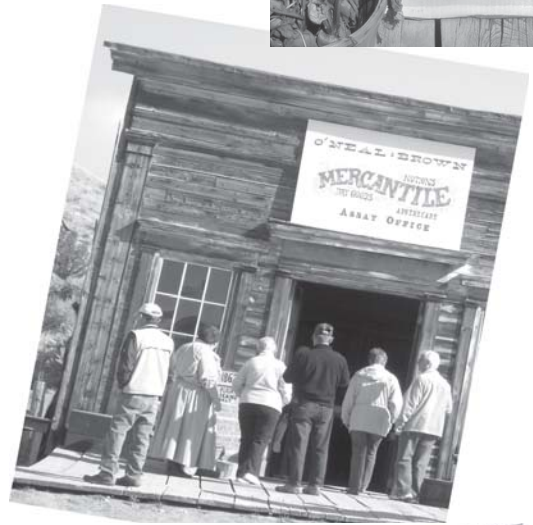




A FEW  
PHOTOS TAKEN  
AT CONVENTION

**1862 PRICES**

FLOUR	\$25	\$30	PER 100 lbs.
BEANS	\$25	PER	90 lbs.
SALT	\$25	PER	100 lbs.
FRESH EGGS	15¢	BUTTER	1.00/lb
TURNIPS	.20 lb	COFFEE	1.00/lb
VINEGAR	4.00/gal	TEA	3.00/lb
SALERATUS	.60 lb	SOAP	1.60/lb
CREAM OF TARTAR	2.50/lb		
DRIED APPLES	.60 lb		
POWDER	3.60 lb	LEAD	1.00/lb COPS 1.00/BOX
AX AND HELVE	5.00 (HANDLE)		
HEAVY BOOTS	10.00-15.00	PER	
		DOOR WITH BOARD	3.00
		DOOR BOARD	4.00





## Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

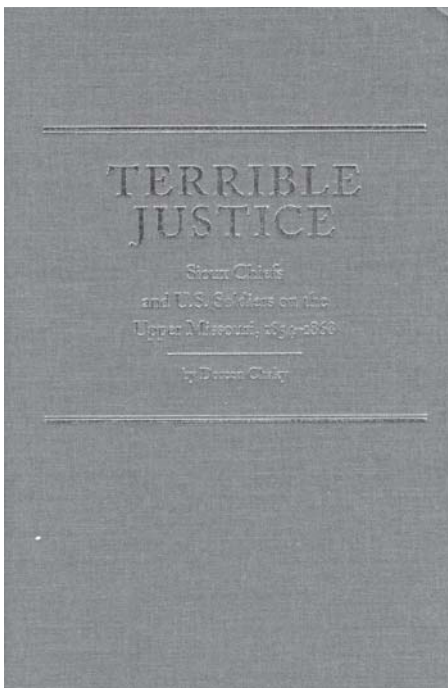
MONTANA GHOST TOWN PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 1861, BOZEMAN, MT, 59771-1861

### REVIEW:

## Terrible Justice

Sioux Chiefs and U.S. soldiers on the Upper Missouri, 1854 - 1868

By DOREEN CHAKY



For those of you who are interested in the interaction between the many tribes, known collectively as the Sioux, and the U.S. government, both Indian agents and army, that led up to what is commonly referred to as 'the Great Sioux War', this is the book for you. Ms. Chaky covers the numerous dealings the U.S. government had with the Indians in the years 1854 to 1868 in her 408 page book published by the Arthur H. Clark Company. Using a massive amount of primary and secondary sources, the book tends to be a little dry history at the outset, but soon develops into an interesting read as the mutual distrust between the two adversaries becomes apparent. The book is laden with short historical vignettes that make the overall story more interesting. The only fault that I found was the book may have been over edited, as some of the side stories leave the reader 'hanging', wondering how the incident ended or what the individual did later. Besides the footnotes, the book comes with an index and a comprehensive bibliography. The book is highly recommended and can be obtained from your local bookstore.

Terry Halden