



MONTANA  
**GHOST TOWN**  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

preserving history for the next generation

**VOLUME 52**

**NEWSLETTER**

**SPRING 2022**



Once the center of town, we were all aglow.  
The parties, the drinks, the dancing and shows.

We created memories that few could forget.  
As the years have passed, we mostly just sit.

But our stories live on through tales and laughs,  
and forever captured will be our photographs.

Adored by many for our structure and style,  
we're glad that folks still visit awhile. -Jolene  
Ewert-Hintz

Photo: Gillian and Fraternity Halls- Elkhorn,  
Montana- Author Photo

## Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

The **Montana Ghost Town Quarterly** is published four times a year by the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society, P.O. Box 1861, Bozeman, Montana 59771.  
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Founded in 1970, 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.

### SPRING 2022

**President:** Brad O'Grosky  
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**Newsletter Editor:** Jolene Ewert-Hintz  
**2022 Convention:** Brad O'Grosky  
**Directors:** Dan Hill, David Steindorf and Tammy Steindorf  
**Immediate Past President:** Terry Halden

## The Prez Sez

**BRAD O'GROSKY**

Greetings everyone, I hope this finds all of you well as we leave the China virus behind and now have a war to contend with. I thank God for the freedom and security he has given us. Speaking of freedom, you'll find the proposed agenda for the convention in White Sulphur Springs in September that I'm putting together. There may be some changes as we get closer, but the great cooperation of the WSS and Meagher County merchants and representatives has been wonderful. Please remember you must be a member to attend. It's always nice to visit Castle, but it is not possible for a bus to turn around, so we'll have to carpool, weather permitting, on Sunday. We don't have any plans for the 2023 convention, so if someone has a good idea and would like to arrange it, it would be greatly appreciated.

I'm very happy to have Jolene as our new board member and newsletter editor, but hopefully we will see Terry at the convention.... If he can get across the border.

As I have asked before, we need a replacement for Connie as secretary/treasurer, hopefully someone from the Bozeman area. She has done a wonderful job, but has other commitments, so please step up so your society can continue. And remember that goes for me as well as I am running on borrowed time.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the convention and please send your articles to Jolene at [ghosttownsofmontana@gmail.com](mailto:ghosttownsofmontana@gmail.com) and let your board know of any possible projects/ and continue to encourage others to join MGTPS as well as the board. We can't continue without your participation.

**Brad**

## CONVENTION September 9th- 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT

**MGTPS MEMBERS ONLY, PRICE \$100 PER PERSON (This is for all the activities)**

BASE MOTEL SPA MOTEL. WSS. 406-547-3366 \$100 (For lodging)  
Mention MGTPS for this price

### PROGRAM

**Friday, Sept. 9.** at the WSS Senior Center. Registration from 4:30- 6:00 Dinner from 6:00 to 7:00  
Presentation by Jerry Zieg, Black Butte Copper Project on mining then and now.

**Saturday, Sept. 10.** 9:00 Bus tour to Ringling Mansion in WSS, St. John's church in Ringling, the Jaw Bone Railroad and Power Station near Lennep, and the Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in Lennep. Lunch in Martinsdale. Tour the Bair Museum in Martinsdale. Return to WSS via Checkerboard. Dinner at 6:00 at the WSS Senior Center.  
Annual general meeting. Presentation of Charcoal Kilns by Lee Silliman

**Sunday Sept. 11.** 9:30 Carpool to Castle Ghost Town. This wasn't on the bus tour as there is no room to turn the bus around. It will be fire season, so this may have to be cancelled.

## M.G.T.P.S. Board Meeting

April 7, 2022

President Brad O’Grosky called the meeting on order at 7:01 p.m. Board members attending were Mark Hufstetler, Tammy & David Steindorf, Jolene Ewert-Hintz and Connie Griffin.

Mark moved to approve the January 20, 2022, board meeting minutes; Tammy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### Treasurer’s Report:

For the Fiscal year of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, as of April 6, 2022, M.G.T.P.S. had an income of \$13,521.75 and Expenses of \$12,641.49 for a Net Income of \$880.26. The Cash Balances are Petty Cash \$160.20, Checking Account \$10,187.45, Savings Account \$20,431.15. Jolene moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report, David seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### Membership:

There are 307 members, this includes the 2021 and 2022 gift memberships. The 2021 gift memberships that did not become members will be dropped from the list. There are 3 new members and 12 of the Gift Memberships from 2021 have joined M.G.T.P.S.

### Correspondence:

There were several notes from members saying how much they enjoy the newsletter. The Mineral County Museum and Historical Society sent a Thank you letter for the \$5,000 donation that will be used to assist with the costs of the historical signs in the Cedar Creek Historical area.

### Old Business:

Connie moved to reopen the discussion about making corrections/changes to Reflections Vol. 2, Mark seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mark feels that we have an opportunity and need to make every effort to do this right. He would support a plan to incorporate the changes and address the issues of making corrections. The proposed plan is that Mark and Jolene will discuss the best way to edit the book. He will start the editing but has a limited amount of time available. Jolene said she can take over if he runs out of time. A new cover was discussed because we might not be able to use the cover from the 1<sup>st</sup> printing. The new cover design that was discussed is a black and white sketch drawing of an old building that would correspond with the cover from Vol. 1 and be less expensive to print. Jolene will work on the new cover design. A suggestion was made to use Amazon for print on demand. M.G.T.P.S. will be able to order a

small stock of books, for replacements and sales, at a discounted rate. By using Amazon, Reflections Vol. 2 will always remain in print. David moved to accept Mark and Jolene’s plan. Tammy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

White Sulphur Springs 2022 Convention update. A stop at the Ringling Mansion has been added to the Saturday tour. Brad has permission for convention attendees to carpool to Castle on Sunday. This might be cancelled because of the wildfire season. One of the buildings in Castle has collapsed due to snow load. Brad is going to ask if M.G.T.P.S. can help preserve the buildings.

The Mineral County Historical Society has received the donation from M.G.T.P.S. and is moving forward with the sign project. The four signs they are placing this year are at Cayuse, Louiseville, Amador and Forest City.

### New Business:

Jolene would like to receive articles for the newsletters.

The location and who will run the 2023 convention has not been decided yet.

The Gallatin County Historical Society’s committee, which is in charge of locating and choosing which signs to replace, hasn’t met yet. The meeting is a few months out.

The board discussed giving Terry Halden a Life Membership to M.G.T.P.S. for everything he has done for the organization. It was mentioned M.G.T.P.S. might not exist today without his efforts and dedication. Connie moved to give Terry a Life Membership. Tammy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Jolene is looking into gaining access to M.G.T.P.S.’s Facebook account in order to keep current.

Tammy moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.



### DID YOU KNOW?

This town was once known as “Montana’s Silver Queen”- Granite, Montana

## Bringing History Back to Life, Part 2

In Part 1 we introduced the history of the stone buildings in Marysville, including a teaser on how they transitioned from an 'aged photo opportunity in a ghost town,' to become a restored boutique venue used for weddings and other events. Part 2 provides some detail about restoring these 2 stone buildings.

Here we go... the restoration process. The process started in 2004 with a vision and anticipation that 'of course' the buildings can be restored. After all, the bones of the buildings looked fine... just ignore the sagging fronts, the sad roof condition, and the stones that had long since fallen from their fitted location. The floors were so rotten that you risked falling in the basement if not careful, and the contents had been abandoned and destroyed over years of being exposed to the weather, salvagers, and youth doing youth stuff.

After the vision and simple dreaming, it was time to meet with structural professionals. Detailed site inspections, locals and the experts basically advised – it is doable to restore the buildings - for the insane. Well, since the buildings were already purchased, it was a matter of adjusting our insanity and working with the engineers to develop a plan of attack. The plan used several phases:

Phase 1 – Clean out all the junk. When my family calls stuff junk – it is truly junk, though we wish we had taken more photos and done more research on some of the junk. Items that were tossed included a very decrepit backbar and a broken grocery store counter. And we tossed all the top layer of debris and soil from under the flooring.

Phase 2 – Decide order of restoration. We decided to start with the less daunting side (122 Main St.), the one that had 'no basement' since the roof/ceiling was in better condition. Our mason repaired (okay, basically rebuilt) the walls.

Phase 3 – Repair 'sagging' front of 124 Main St. This is the 'full basement' side, and it had a coal chute (presumably) in the front that weakened the foundation and, with help from carpenter ants on a main beam, had caused the front

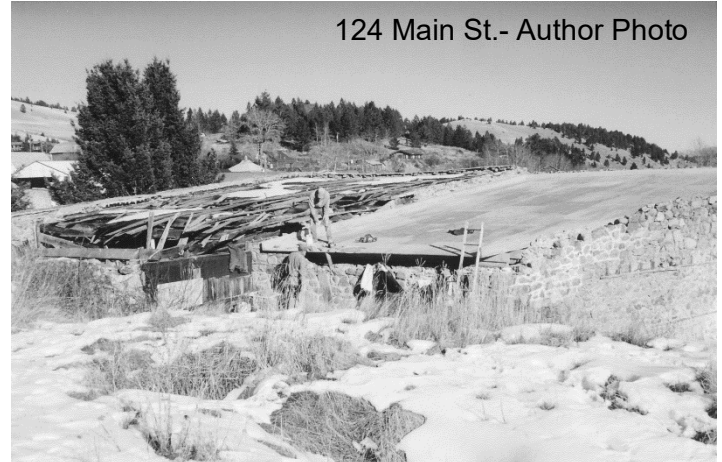


## By Sonya and Scott Rosenthal

wall/roof beam to fail. So, the chute was filled in, the timber head beam (with the words 'Betor' on it from the initial delivery in the early 1900s) was replaced with a steel I-beam, and all the rock on the front was removed and replaced rock for rock. The mason claims two of the capstones were switched but only he can pick those out in the before and after photos. No more sagging roof line!

Phase 4 – Design the floor plan and window plan. This phase included roughing in utilities, walls, determining the interim vision of what the building should feel like. The window plan was easy – replicate the front windows and doors as close as possible with current materials.

Phase 5 – Change restoration focus. As the 122 Main St. side was progressing, we realized that if we did not get to the other side soon (124 Main St.), it would be even more



difficult to restore its roof and walls. So, to the other side we went, starting with basement masonry foundation work. We removed lathe and plaster, did a major masonry rebuild of walls, and then closed in the roof/ceiling.

Phase 6 and beyond. BORING, okay this is all normal construction stuff. Let's talk about the unique restoration discoveries, cool items recovered, stories during construction and our lessons learned from restoring these stone buildings.

### Restoration Discoveries:

Chicken bones everywhere in the masonry work! This must have been a special 'branding' by the early masons or perhaps it was an easy place to deposit their bones after eating lunch during construction of the walls?

Aside from the chicken bones, there were no secrets in the walls. At the back steps – we found clay pipe from the historic sewer system. Water and gas were also once popular in town and abandoned relics were found in the buildings.

A 'cold room' under the foundation between the two buildings was discovered. This area also served as an 'interior,' yet tightly restricted, access route between the two sides. We closed this in to reduce the potential of a weak section in the foundation.

**Cool Items Recovered:**

Our awesome contractors put aside all the relics and pieces of things that they came across, letting us decide what was interesting and what was not. Relics include items such as hinges, metal parts, bottles, glass, porcelain, buttons, papers, etc. A most recent discovery was a small porcelain giraffe, very cool given that the Betor family was from Lebanon/Egypt.

Remains of a saved book written in Lebanese Arabic is preserved. The book was actually identified by a recent wedding guest (who is coincidentally related to the Betor/Larson family) as being a bible.



Author Photo

In cleaning out the front window cabinets, we found a metal shoe sign promoting the Betor store. This was one of the very few remaining relics that validated the previous building owners.



Author Photo

The front window casings and awning roller were preserved. They are displayed in the building as decorations. A section of the original wooden handrail is

reused at the back staircase.

The ceiling tile! Each side had unique ceiling tile. The *Butterfly* pattern was from 124 Main St., and, the *Victorian Lace* pattern (author's name for it), came from 122 Main St. Due to the small amount of *Butterfly* tile that existed, it was decided to place all the original tile on the 122 ceiling, and then place reproduction *Butterfly* tile back on the 124 side.



Author Photo

**Stories During Construction:**

So many people stopped by during construction and at open houses we held during the Marysville Pioneers Days (generally the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in July. Check their website for details!). The stories are so precious – from remembering when 122 Main St. was the Cotton Club Saloon and when 124 Main St. was the Cotton Club Dance Hall. We heard stories of when they danced at the Cotton Club Dancehall when underage and when the snowstorms prevented others from coming up from Helena for New Year's Eve. There are those that in their youth spray painted the interior. There are stories of folks salvaging the contents, including when a semi rolled up and stole all the furniture contents (including a collection of sewing machines and sewing cabinets). I love the story of my friends in Avon whose grandfather played the piano in the Cotton Club Dance Hall! We even had the Rawlins family stop in – they being the family of Mary Rawlins of whom Marysville is rumored to be named after.

**Lessons Learned from Restoring these Stone Buildings:**

Here are some of our tidbits that we learned/validated during this process

- Find the best tradespersons you can and develop an awesome relationship with them. Without great contractors that love history and restoration,



2008 Author Photo

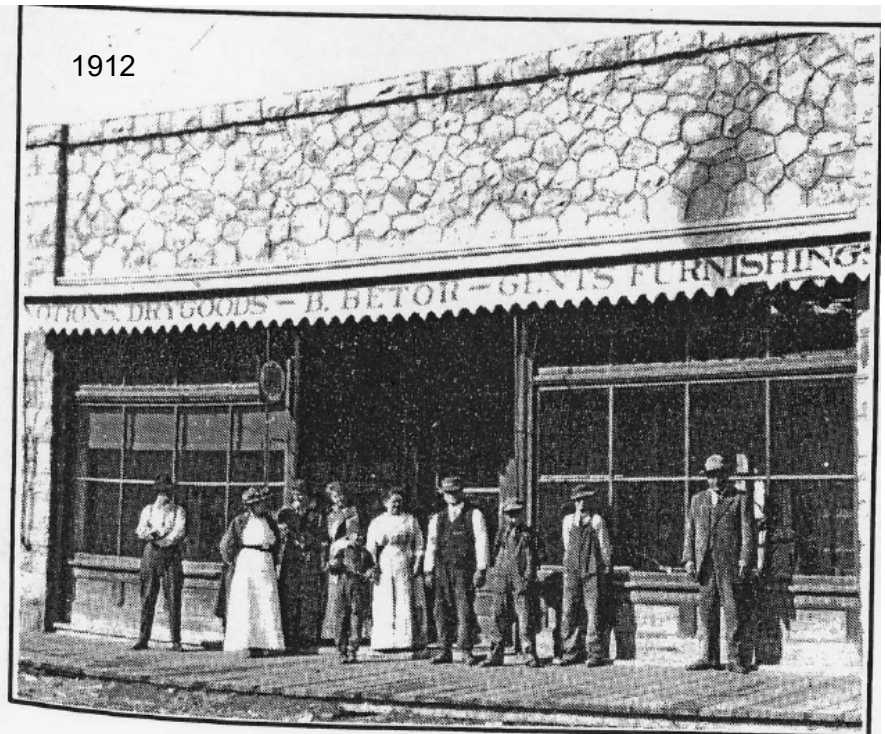
projects like this are simply not doable. Our contractors had a 'time out' for a couple of years as they felt that there was no progress being made. After their break, they returned with energy and passion!

- Sieve through the dirt and all materials under the floors. We did not do this and regret that. Was there a token? Gold dust? Any other fun treasures in that dirt layer?

- Know what the vision for the buildings is. We decided early on to retain as much of the buildings character as possible for our future storefronts. This included retaining the original location to access the full basement by installing a cellar door

access. We kept the steel support posts and their rock bases.

- Figure out how to retain/reflect as much history as possible. The original general store buildings were owned and operated by the Betor/Larson family. At a later time, the buildings became a saloon and dance hall, and at other times the buildings had other occupants. It was difficult to ascertain what additions /changes were made to the buildings by the various occupants. It seems that the lackluster opening between the sides was improved with an archway for the saloon/dancehall ambiance. We suspect that the red wallpaper on the 122 Main St. side was from the 'Saloon' era, so we respected the red wallpaper by painting the steel supports a color as close as possible to the wallpaper color.
- Keep a running documentation during the restoration process. We have photos 'all over the place' and it sure would have been smarter to have them in better order from the start. Gee, this is probably not a new concept to others. Though we are better than others - I have heard of folks doing restoration and never taking any photos of their progress!
- When folks stop by – talk with them! They have amazing stories and may have their own connection to your building or the history of the town/location. We wrote some stories down as we heard them, or as recounted by our contractors. It would have been better to have recorded them sooner and documented names, dates, etc. Next time....



### Summary:

We are honored to be able to restore a part of Marysville history. And we are grateful to be in a community that values preservation of mining history and the history of the town.

Watch for Part 3 of our story about the backbar salvaged from McQueen (Butte). In the meantime, we encourage you to find your own historic building to restore or keep encouraging those in the process of restoring one to stay on track!

# Mining Camp Architecture

by Ellen Baumler



Muslin stretched smooth over log ceiling and walls, seen here in the McGovern Store, made interiors seem like finished rooms. Author Photo

Bannack, Virginia City, and Helena each had a turn as Montana's territorial capital, but each was destined for a different future. Today Bannack is a state park whose empty buildings mostly date to the 1880s and later. Helena owes its survival beyond the mining phase to the Northern Pacific which linked the town to distant markets in 1883. Few 1860s gold camp remnants survive in Helena. But Virginia City has a remarkable fifty-one 1860s gold rush-era buildings. Virginia City's buildings retain their antiquated storefronts. Only small panes of glass, packed in sawdust, could survive transport over rough terrain. So, merchants used French doors that allowed maximum light into their stores. Helena once sported the same type of storefront, but with the advent of the railroad, storefronts were remodeled with big display windows. Lack of rail transportation is partly why most of Virginia City's storefronts escaped remodeling. Virginia City's 1860s buildings illustrate how frontier



The Kiskadden Barn sports a tall false front and on the ground level, plaster scored to look like cut stone.

Montana Historical Society Photograph Archives, 956-249

architecture was all about illusion. As the town transitioned from a temporary mining camp to a more permanent settlement, shop keepers began to add false fronts to the log cabins. False fronts were architecturally important to mining camps because they made buildings seem taller, larger, and grander than they really were. This offered residents a sense of security in remote places like Alder Gulch. To the false fronts, shopkeepers began to add half-columns, arches, and medallions. These, crafted in wood on the frontier, mimicked the stone and brick ornamentation in the buildings of cities far away. Inside, muslin stretched smooth and tacked down over the rough log walls gave the illusion of plaster. Then, wallpaper applied over the muslin made primitive interiors seem like tastefully decorated rooms.

Virginia City's first substantial buildings, like Content's Corner and the Kiskadden Barn, were of rubblestone. A layer of plaster scored to look like stone blocks covered the rough stones. The effect was dramatic. These survivors and historic photographs of them give us a real sense of early residents' attempts at civilization. -Check out more of Ellen's work at:

<http://ellenbaumler.blogspot.com/p/my-books.html>

## New Members

Membership Chairperson Connie reports the following **New Members** have joined our Association since the last newsletter.  
**A big Welcome to you all!**

**Jolene Ewert**, Anaconda, MT, **Phyllis Nettik**, Camp Verde, AZ, **Terry Vietor**, Philipsburg, MT, **Donna Rudolph**, Joplin, MT, **Nancy Michaelson**, Vaughn, MT, **Audrey & Edward Dodge**, Livingston, MT, **Barb Baggott**, Joliet, IL, **Carol Kinnie**, North Bend, WA, **Mike Tracy**, Livermore, CA, **Larry & Shirley Love**, Ennis, MT, **Charles Dodge**, Central Point, OR, **Patty Molinaro**, Roscoe, MT, **Rita Reichman**, Manhattan, MT, **Audrey Aungst**, Scottsdale, AZ, **Jim Powell**, Bozeman MT, **Wayne Paxton**, Kalispell, MT

# Gallatin County Historical Signs

by **BRAD O'GROSKY**

Here for your road trip planning is the second set of historical site signs in Gallatin County. Since they are presented in alphabetical order you may want to plan a trip where the sites are closer together. Your board had approved funding to replace the signs that are in poor condition. This project is being discussed with the Historical Preservation Board of Gallatin County to determine the best course of action. If all goes well, it is hoped that new signs will be installed this year. The next newsletter may have more information. Until then, enjoy your road trips.

## **Churchill**

This community was largely settled in 1890-1920's by Hollanders, mainly immigrants from the Netherlands. Many farmers raised barley for the Manhattan Malting Plant. The 59-mile Highline Canal, built in 1900, brought irrigation water from the Gallatin River. The first church built in 1904 was replaced by a larger Christian Reformed Church in 1911. The church was built on the geographical linear center of the Holland settlement and was reported to be the largest rural church west of the Mississippi. Community growth required a second church in 1960. The public "BOS" school operated from 1901-1908. A Christian school was built in 1908 and by 1954 offered four years of high school. A general store operated from 1912-1930's. In later years, there was a grocery store, garage selling farm equipment and a 1974 retirement home with a nursing wing. Retired farmers and others built homes in Churchill. (The sign is located west of the Bethel Church. If you can visit the Christian Reformed Church, it well worth the time.)

## **Clarkston (Magpie)**

The Northern Pacific Railroad passed through here in 1883 and traveled to Helena. The station was called "Magpie" for the many black and white birds residing here. Magpie was an early-day homesteading area and by 1911 most of the land was settled. In 1910 Guy Clark established a store and post office (1910-1958) and the town's name was changed to Clarkston. The store's name originated from the old Sawyer Ranch, "The Circle S." There was a stock yard, a depot and an elevator. The few people who lived in this area could flag the trains for rides to Helena or Logan. South of here was a railroad flag stop called "Rekap." The Clarkston School operated from 1920-1939. Other early-day schools in this area were: Pole Gulch (Evergreen), Harbison (Prather) and Garden Gulch (New Garden Gulch). Some schools consolidated and others joined Clarkston by 1921. Since 1972 Clarkston has become a subdivided residential area.

(Clarkston is north of either Logan or trident about 13 miles. Look for the sign just past the road to the fishing access.)

## **Crail Ranch (Big Sky)**

Frank Crail, County Commissioner from 1886 to 1900, started proving up on his homestead in 1902 at what is now Meadow Village. The ranch became a cattle and wheat ranch of some 960 acres. Crail developed a strain of wheat called Crail Fife. His son Eugene built the Crail Log Cabin (½ mile north). He also built the first Ophir School in 1929. Montana born Chet Huntley, radio commentator, and some corporate investors purchased the Crail and Lone Mountain Ranches. Originally the Lone Mountain Ranch was called B-Bar-K Ranch. In the 1940's it was the Corcoran Pulp Wood Operation. In 1972 Meadow Village opened and later the Mountain Village in Madison County (5 miles west).

The Soldier's Chapel was dedicated in 1955 for 82 members of Montana's 163 Infantry killed in World War II. Big Sky Skiing Resort has become a year-round recreation area.

(Meadow Village is in Big Sky surrounded by buildings and this is where you will find the sign.)

## **Dry Creek (Hillsdale)**

Hillsdale slightly northwest of here was the first community. In 1885 there was a school, church and saloon. A post office operated intermittently from 1874 to 1901. The present church was moved here in 1905 from the East Gallatin Community. It took 28 horses to pull the church the eight miles. From 1903 to 1907 there was a school called Cedar View. The Dry Creek School (built in 1907) closed in 1945 and is now the community center. Pioneer woman Granny Yates, a widow and mother of 11 came to Montana from Missouri in 1864 and to the Gallatin in 1977. She traveled 13 times between Missouri and Montana before her death in 1907 and is buried in the cemetery to the northwest. Gallop to the north had a post office from 1885 to 1908. Also to the north was a supply store called Summerset which closed in 1911. In the late 1930's Dry Creek had a store and a service station.

(Dry Creek is about 7 miles north of Belgrade across from the Dry Creek Church and near the Dry Creek Cemetery.)

## **Eldridge**

Eldridge was an early day tie and lumber camp for the Northern Pacific Railway. From 1902 to 1914 Walter Cooper operated the camp which was located a few miles up Taylor Fork. The "Tie Camp" was where logs were milled for railroad ties. In the spring during high water, many logs were floated down the Gallatin River to Salesville (now Gallatin Gateway) and on to the Cooper Mill at Central Park. There was a post office at Eldridge from 1903-1907. When the camp closed, the post office was moved to the Buffalo Horn Ranch (320 Ranch) and operated until 1940. Eldridge ceased to exist in 1907. In 1912 a school district was formed north of here. In 1928 a log school was built at Porcupine Creek and was replaced in 1963 by the present Ophir School. The name Ophir meant "City of Gold."

(The sign is west of Highway 191 between the 320 Ranch and the Taylor Fork turnout.)

## **Female Seminary**

The Gallatin Valley Female Seminary was located here from 1875 to 1878. It was a girls' boarding school and a day school and the first such institution in the State of Montana (and may have been the only one). The original



school was located at the Culver place one mile east of Manhattan and south of the Dry Creek Road in 1874 and 1875. Rev. Lyman B. Crittenden and his daughter, Gertrude, operated the school in both locations. Approximately 10 to 12 students attended the boarding school and a like number attended the day school. Tuition was \$20.00 a month for boarding students and \$4.00 a month for day students. A stone church was also built here in 1878.

(The sign is south of old Highway 10 west of the Gallatin River bridge and south about 2 miles on Heeb lane.)

### **Gallatin City (first and second)**

The original townsite of Gallatin City, north of here on the west side of the combined Madison and Jefferson Rivers, was selected in 1862. In February 1863, sixty cabins were being constructed. The river was forded when it was low, and a ferry was available when it was high. In 1864 President Lincoln declared Montana a territory, and Gallatin County (one of nine Montana counties) named Gallatin City the county seat. In 1865 the town had moved to the east side of the river near the present Headwaters Park. The county's first flour mill was built at Gallatin City in 1866 and by 1872 there was a grist mill, two stores, a racetrack and fairgrounds. Fairs were held as early as 1866. Freighting on the Missouri River was impossible due to several waterfalls below Fort Benton. When Bozeman was voted the county seat in 1867 and the Northern Pacific Railroad was scheduled to bypass Gallatin City, the town was gradually abandoned.

(Going on the old Highway 10, the sign is between the Trident Road and the Madison River.)



Photo by Jolene Ewert-Hintz

### **Hamilton (early day Manhattan)**

This location of an early day (1860's) stage stop provided overnight accommodations for the Bozeman – Virginia City – Helena stages. Hamilton was named for Ted Hamilton. The town was most active in the 1860's and 1870's. There was a hotel, churches, stores, blacksmith shop, post office and cemetery. No saloon due to an active "Good Temperance" Lodge. From 1875-1878, a female seminary (girls' boarding and day school) operated one mile east on Heeb Lane. A stone church was built there in 1878. With the coming of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1883, the town moved to the railroad and was renamed Morland. New York investors started the Manhattan Malting Company. They encouraged Holland Immigrants (farmers) to come and raise barley. The name changed again from Morland to Manhattan (1891). Prohibition closed the malt plant. The Meadow View Cemetery remains on the old Hamilton site.

(The sign is at the Meadow View Cemetery south of Manhattan on the Churchill road.)

### **Hebgen Lake and Quake Lake**

By 1898 a 10-foot-wide road was built through the Gallatin

Canyon to Taylors Fork and the Park line. In 1911 a crude, narrow wagon road went to "Yellowstone" (West Yellowstone), 90 miles from the county seat at Bozeman. In 1926, the road was graveled. West Yellowstone started with the coming of the railroad in 1908. This area contains many historical interests: Hebgen Lake and dam, Quake Lake, and the Madison River Earthquake Visitor's Center at the site of the August 17, 1959, mountain slide. Near here was the Grayling Post Office that served from 1898 to 1951. Missouri Flats (Madison County) was homesteaded by people from Missouri in 1911. Still standing in the ghost town of Cliff Lake in Madison County (2002) are the school, teacherage, store and post office. The Fir Ridge Cemetery overlooks Hebgen Lake.

(The sign is on Highway 287 west of 191 near the earthquake area. The visitor's center is well worth your time to visit.)

### **Hyalite Canyon (Middle Creek)**

Hyalite Canyon, formerly Middle Creek, was renamed in 1928 for hyalite gems found there. Years ago, a few cabins, a logging operation (Louse-Town), Flanders Mill (1877) and Missouri Town were located in this canyon. The paved Hyalite Canyon Road continues eleven miles to Hyalite Dam and Reservoir, Bozeman's prime water source. The canyon is a popular recreation area with numerous camp sites, walking trails, boating and fishing. Six miles from here is Langohr's Campground (handicap accessible) named for Mike Langohr, first Gallatin National Forest Ranger and later Supervisor (1899-1906) who built the region's first ranger station (a log cabin) at the campground in 1900. The scout camp was built in 1935 as a community effort. C.C.C. boys assisted in building the camp and helped build the roads. Palisade Falls is a half mile walk on a braille signed trail. Hyalite and Blackmore Peaks and many lakes and falls can be reached by hiking trails.

(The sign is on Hyalite Canyon Road just south of 19<sup>th</sup>.)

### **Initial Point**

All Montana land surveys originate from this point, which was established in 1867 by Solomon Meredith, Surveyor General of the territory of Montana, at the direction of Joseph Wilson, U.S. General Land Office. Meredith was assisted by Major W.W. DeLacy and Civil Engineer Benjamin F. Marsh. This site was chosen due to its optimum geographic location and the rapid agricultural development of the Madison and Gallatin Valleys. The Initial Point, marked with a 3" diameter brass plate, is located on top of the left west hill. At this point the principal parallel (baseline) extends east and west and intersects the principal meridian which extends north and south to form the grid from which townships are surveyed. Each township contains 36 square mile sections. Townships are numbered north and south from the baseline and east and west from the principal meridian.

(Three miles south of Willow Creek on the Old Yellowstone Road and about 1/3 mile south of Breeze Way Road you will find the sign. The first point was planned west of here near the Beaverhead River, but the terrain had too many hills to get a long enough view.)

# BEAVER TOWN by Kathy Dyer



Photo Courtesy of the Heritage Center

Beaver Town was located on the north side of Boulder Hill, three miles south of Jefferson City. There is a Beaver Creek there. There is also a Beaver Creek by Winston, which in early days was located in Jefferson County. Some history books say that there was a Beaver Town located in that area also. This one was later named Placer. Our Beaver Town is listed on the DeLacy map of 1865, whereas Boulder was not, even though there were miners all over this area in 1862.

I became enthralled with Beaver Town, when I read the stagecoach stories. Especially, the one about the stage being overturned twice on its trip from Boulder to Helena in 1875. A recent map showed a gulch at the base of the Boulder Hill called Stage Coach Gulch.

According to entries in several newspapers that existed in the 1860's, especially the Virginia City one, quartz lead was found in the area and a town of 20 cabins sprang up in Beaver Town. This article was written in September 1864. A council was established, and three election judges were appointed. These were: Isaac Buck, L. Sayle, and Milo Courtwright. Isaac Buck was born in Ohio in 1821 and died 1894. He is listed as county judge in the 1880 census which has him living in Radersburg, listed as single at age 59, so he probably never married and spent his life in Jefferson County. Mr. Buck is buried in the Boulder Cemetery

Beaver Town first shows up in the 1864 poll list. The first territorial legislature had met at Bannack and requested that everyone register to vote. Not much information is on this poll list other than their name and the precinct they resided in, but at least you can verify if certain people were here in 1864 and where they lived. Beaver Town is listed and there were 55 men signed up. They probably didn't register women then. The problem with the 1864 poll list, is

there is not one for Boulder or Boulder Valley and although the stage station here did not exist until 1867, there were tons of miners and a few ranchers in the area. The poll list for the Boulder area is probably included in the Beaver Town list.

One early person in this area was Milo Courtwright. He arrived in Montana in 1863 and is listed as being in Beaver Town in 1864. In fact, Beaver Town is listed as being in the Courtwright "mining" District. However he is listed in the 1870 Census in Unionville as a quartz miner. He may have kept his mining claims in the area but lived closer to Helena.

There was also a census taken in 1867. All of the territory of Montana was supposed to participate in this census, but only Jefferson County complied. However, this census doesn't list where they resided. It does list age, where born and names the wives and children also. There is an 1870 census of Montana and this one has a Beaver Creek which I finally decided was the one over by Winston, not the one by Jefferson City. I believe residents of our Beaver Town were recorded with Jefferson City residents in that census. 1880 census lists Beaver Town this way "Beavertown, so called vicinity of Stage road south of Jefferson City". So we know that one is accurate. There are 11 adults listed and 4 children. Beaver Town was kind of a boom-and-bust mining camp.

Fort Benton was a "port" city in early day Montana. Steam ships docked there and unloaded supplies and passengers, both prospectors and families. Supplies were then loaded onto freight wagons to be hauled to and sold at the various mining camps. Passengers were put on stagecoaches and an early day stage route ran from Fort Benton to Virginia City and one of the routes went right through Boulder. An article in the Virginia City newspaper of May 1866 states there were coaches drawn by 6 horses that traveled between Virginia City and Helena 3 times a week. However, an article in March of 1867 states that Beaver Town was passing rapidly back to its primitive state with many vacant cabins. Soon after this copper was discovered near there at Copper Gulch.

First mention of the people living in Beaver Town was in a Virginia City newspaper in 1867 that states "the old proprietor of the Beaver Town Ranch after a long and earnest struggle has sold out to Mr. Emerson and Jefferies" I tried in vain to put a name to who this old proprietor was but couldn't pin it down. I did find Mr. Emerson and Mr. Jefferies.

Another resource I consulted was the tax licenses. Everyone who had a business in the early days had to have

a tax license. These are kept at the Montana Historical Society, and we have the listing for the early ones of Jefferson County. Once again some of these are for the Beaver Creek by Winston and I have no way of knowing which ones are correct. One early listing for 1868 owner of a hotel, eating house and bar was a Mr. Muhly. This could possibly be the “old proprietor” of the Beaver Town station but I couldn’t find anything else on him.

Rufus King Emerson was listed as owning the Beaver Town station in 1868 in the tax license document. Rufus was born in Missouri about 1831. He is listed in the 1870 census for Jefferson City, occupation landlord. He married and had one child but is in Butte on the 1880 census. Rufus died in San Diego 1919 and is buried there.

Richard W. Jefferies was also listed in the 1870 census for Jefferson City. Mr. Jefferies was county commissioner at the time the county seat was moved from Radersburg to Boulder – 1869. At that time, Boulder had no jail facilities and Mr. Jefferies offered the county use of his building in Boulder. Richard was born in Kentucky and is single in the 1870 census, but married Mary L. Cook who was the widow of Richard Hope in 1882. They had one child who died in infancy in 1883. Richard is listed in the Boulder directory of 1890 and in the 1892 voter registration. He died in 1908 and Mary passed away in 1941. Mary had several children by Mr. Hope.

It seems that we had lots of snow in 1870. There was an article in the newspaper for June of that year. The stagecoach from Boulder had to stop at the crest of Boulder Hill, unload the passengers to walk over the hill and be picked up on the Beaver Town side as there was 5 feet of snow on the top.

Alex Lux was proprietor of the Stage Station at Beaver Town in 1877. Mr. Lux lived at the Jeffries Ranch in June 1878 and the paper notes in February of that year a daughter was born to the family. It was mentioned in the paper in 1878 that A. J. Locker lived there as a marriage took place at his residence in Beaver Town.

M.W. O’Connell of Helena purchased the Beaver Town station in 1879. Michael W. O’Connell was born in county Tipperary, Ireland. He was married to Ann Hogan and one of their daughters married Robert Flinn and one married Bernard McCabe; Prominent men of Helena. I am not sure how long Mr. O’Connell had the stage stop but he is in Cascade County by 1900. Although the newspaper noted that Mr. O’Connell was looking for workers in 1911.

Clarence Coffin Sinnot was the next person mentioned. In 1913 he is listed as a ranch man and that he let the contract to build a fine log home in Beaver Town. This log home boasts of 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and a full basement with a two-car garage. Clarence was born 1877 in PA. In the 1900 census he is single and living with his parents in Pennsylvania. In the 1910 census he is married, and his children were born in Jefferson City. In the 1920 census he is still there, but in 1922 he is in California. Unfortunately, this beautiful home burned in 1937.

The Ericksons are the last ones mentioned. Frank Oscar Erickson was born in Sweden in 1864. He married here in Montana. After a brief stop in Basin, he settled in Beaver Town and Wickes. The family is listed in Jefferson County in the 1900 Census, the 1910, 1920 and 1930 census. He filed on this land in 1920.

The Ericksons lived at Beaver Town and raised their children there. Frank and Hedvig had 6 boys and one girl. Most of them are buried in the Jefferson City Cemetery and on the tombstone of one; Ed and June, it reads “last residents of Beaver Town”.  
Researched and compiled by **Kathy Dyer, for The Heritage Center, Boulder, MT**– March 20, 2016

**Blackfoot City, Montana** got its start in 1865 and became the central town for the Ophir mining district. The peak population reached over 1,000 and was home to saloons, mercantiles, and a post office



Photo by Jolene Ewert-Hintz

that operated until 1912. The town was victim to fire on more than one occasion and after the last rebuild in 1882, the name was changed to Ophir.



Photo by Jolene Ewert-Hintz

An estimated \$3.5 million in placer gold was taken from the district before they moved on to lode mining and dredging.

**P.O. BOX 1861, BOZEMAN, MT, 59771-1861**

## **At This Year's Convention: Kilns of the West: A History** **An Illustrated Lecture- Saturday, September 10, 2022- By Lee Silliman**

This illustrated lecture by photographer Lee Silliman will investigate the important roles played by charcoal and lime kilns in the development of the Trans-Mississippi West. The talk begins with a review of the basic principles of charcoal production and its pivotal role in the emergence of metallurgy beginning five millennia ago. Charcoal's critical property—the ability to burn at high temperatures in a confined space—made it a valuable commodity.

Many centuries later, skilled charcoal producers, called colliers or coal burners, were enticed westward in America by mineral developers. The presentation will briefly discuss the charcoal pit method, and then focus upon the large beehive kilns which optimized charcoal production. Many of these impressive stone and brick edifices still remain as testimony to their substantial but brief contribution to the late nineteenth century mining industry of the frontier West. Due to deforestation and economic forces, charcoal was eventually eclipsed by coke (a similar fuel derived from coal). Many historical images will be shown, and contemporary photographs will show the beehive kilns remaining in Montana, Nevada, and Utah on public lands. Also, the talk will briefly discuss the role of lime kilns which produced a critical ingredient in cement.

Lastly, a travelogue will be shown of Silliman's extended photography trip in 2021 to document backcountry kiln sites in the Great Basin deserts of Nevada and Utah, including views of a rare "charcoal ranch." Articles detailing the history of charcoal production in the West will be available for review at the talk's conclusion, as well as a book relating the tragic 1879 Fish Creek War of Eureka County, Nevada, between colliers and smelter owners.

