



MONTANA
GHOST TOWN
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

preserving history for the next generation

VOLUME 44

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2015



The Boarding house at the Ghost Town of Emery
(See story, page 6)

Photo, TERRY HALDEN

Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

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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.

SUMMER 2015

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2015 Convention: Darian & Terry Halden
Immediate Past President: John Ellingsen
Directors: Tom Lowe, and Gordon Tracy.

The Prez Sez

TERRY HALDEN

Enclosed in this newsletter is a separate sheet for those of you who are heading to our annual convention to register. Members have told us to do it this way as they do not like cutting the newsletter, and besides it give you a one page program that you can take to Great Falls. Unfortunately, as much as we pruned expenses, we still have to charge \$75.00 per person, mainly because the cost of food has soared over the last year. However, on the bright side, there is a jam packed program lined up for you.

Sally, who besides looking after secretary and treasurer duties also keeps a track of our membership list. She tells me that several of you are a little delinquent in renewing your dues, despite a couple of reminders in the mail. We just excommunicated one member that has not been heard from for three years, and unfortunately, we will have to do that to the members that have not paid for 2014 on. Those of you that have not renewed for the current year, and have received a renewal notice AND a reminder are next!

Last month we welcomed to the board of directors two new members. At the board meeting on July 11th in Bozeman, Brad Ogrosky volunteered to take on the vacant position of Vice President, and Larry Hoffman will assist Sue and Darian in looking for projects for us. Thanks guys.

On Saturday August 1st we are going into partnership with the Lewistown Hiking Bushwackers and tackling the cleanup required at the Fort Maginnis cemetery. We are looking for volunteers from the Lewistown area that might be interested in joining us that day. What the work will entail is cleaning out the weeds that have accumulated around the graves, and because of the delicate nature, so as not to disturb the grave markers; motorized lawn equipment cannot be used. If you can make it that day, please e-mail me at terryhalden@hotmail.com This is a worthwhile and ongoing project of our Society and we do need some 'Boots on the Ground' for this one.

Finally, it was a bit of a rush to get this issue of the newsletter out, but with the help of Crystal Alegria, who submitted an excellent article on the African American population in 19th century Bozeman, and some research into old newspaper files, here it is; so Enjoy.

Until the next time.....

Terry

T. C. POWER & BRO.,
FORT BENTON, M.T.
STORAGE
-AND-
FORWARDING
FREIGHTERS.
Through Bills of Lading from
CHICAGO,
ST. LOUIS,
and PITTSBURGH.
To Helena, M. T.
Wholesale dealers in all kinds of
MERCHANDISE,

New Members

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

Clint & Cathy Montgomery, Albuquerque, NM

Gayle Blair, Tucson, AZ

Nancy O'Donnell, Three Forks, MT

Tim & Amy Sanders, Billings, MT

M.G.T.P.S. BOARD MEETING
July 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 1:05PM by President Terry Halden. Board members also present were Sally Griffin, Brad Ogrosky, Gordon Tracy, and Larry Hoffman. Margie Kankrlik was a guest.

Since Margie's time was limited, her ideas for a theme for the 2017 convention were moved to the start of the agenda. She knows of a lady, Dia Johnson, who can give a great presentation on Bozeman's old red-light district. This could be combined with information on other historic buildings in Bozeman's down-town district. She knows of another lady who could talk on the Virginia City red light district. There could be entertainment in the form of plays and music. After discussing the many possibilities for a Bozeman convention, Brad moved and Gordon seconded that the 2017 convention be held in Bozeman. The motion passed. Margie will be in charge.

Sally then gave the Treasurer's report. For the fiscal year July 2014 – June 2015, income was \$9,926.00, expenses were \$9,538.06, which left a profit of \$387.92. mainly due to the \$1,000 donation from the Louis L. Borick Foundation that we received.

The only correspondence was 2 newsletters, the Gallatin Co. Historical Society Magazine, and a letter with a poster about historic airway beacons.

Sally reported that we have 252 members. Letters to members who are not current with their dues were sent out in late June. One member has not paid since 2012. It was decided to drop them from the roles.

There were no reports for Facebook or the Webmaster.

Terry has talked to several local officials, in the Lewistown area, and he reported that the project to clean up and renovate the Fort Maginnis cemetery will be done in 3 phases. The first phase will be to clean up the brush and grass on August 1 and maybe the 2nd. We will need to provide weed killer, a pickup truck to haul away the brush, and liability and accident insurance. A number of local people have expressed interest in doing the labor. We are hoping that MGTPS member Jerry Hanley, who lives in that area, will be able to supervise the project. Larry will contact him. The 2nd phase will be to renovate or replace the gravestones. Terry has information on how to do this

type of work. The 3rd phase will be to be sure that the area is recognized as a national shrine. Directional markers need to be placed along the roads, and informational pamphlets need to be printed and distributed to various locations in the Lewistown area.

The newsletter is about ready to go. It will include information and a registration sheet for people to sign up for the upcoming convention in Great Falls and Fort Benton.

Sally presented a request from the Three Forks Area Historical Society for a donation to help restore windows in the Northern Pacific Depot which has been moved from Trident to Three Forks. Larry moved and Gordon seconded to donate \$1,000. The exact amount for each window has not been determined yet, but it will be at least \$1,000 for each window. The \$1,000 will be matched by \$1,000 from the Gallatin County Historical Society. There will be a plaque with our name on it on the window frame.

There is nothing new on our convention, which will be on Sept. 11-13 this year. Arrangements have been completed previously.

The two new Board members took on their new responsibilities. Gordon moved and Sally seconded that Larry Hoffman will assist the Projects Chairman and Brad Ogrosky will be Vice President. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Griffin
Secretary/Treasurer

SILVER CITY HOTEL.
SILVER CITY M. T.
FRED. LINDWEDEL, Proprietor.

The undersigned, having refurnished and refitted the Silver City Hotel throughout, would respectfully solicit the patronage of the traveling public.
Stage lines run to and from the house. Good rooms, clean beds, and the stable is commodious and well supplied with hay and grain.
No pains will be spared to make guests comfortable.
Charges reasonable.

FRED. LINDWEDEL,
Proprietor.

wly-oc18

Ad in the Helena Herald newspaper, Feb. 28, 1878 edition

FORT MAGINNIS

The following article appeared in the Fort Benton, The River Press in its issue of Dec. 28, 1881 - Editor

Congress appropriated \$95,000 for the erection of a military post on the east side and at the foot of the Judith Mountains some two years ago, and General Sherman, recognizing the services of our Honorable Delegate in Congress in effecting its establishment, honored the post by naming it Fort Maginnis.

The post is at present under the command of Captain McAdams, and there are five companies stationed here, all of whom have been engaged during the past season in endeavoring to complete their quarters.

Almost the entire charge of construction has been vested in Major Bartlett, the post quartermaster, and a better selection for the responsible position could hardly have been made. During a brief interview he informed the writer that it would require an additional \$45,000 to complete the post. This will probably be appropriated in the present session of Congress, and in another year Maginnis will be one of the handsomest military posts in the west. He also informed me that sand stone rock had been found in abundance, and inexhaustible beds of mineral paint discovered. Samples of the latter have been sent East and declared to be of superior quality.

The post is constructed almost entirely of wood. The buildings are arranged as, all military posts are constructed, in the form of a square, leaving an enclosure for the parade ground. The residence of the commanding officer is so situated as to command a perfect view of the entire garrison, and will be a large Gothic structure surmounted by a wide porch across the entire front.

On either side of the above house will be quarters designed for field officers, and following these in a parallel line will be quarters for company officers. The latter number seven, are 42 X 75 feet in dimension, and will have a nice, wide porch extending across the entire front. When completed this row of quarters will present the appearance of a handsome avenue rather than a frontier post.

The men's quarters face the officers', are three in number, and constructed to comfortably quarter two companies each. They are 36 X 232 feet, with kitchens and other necessary buildings in the rear. Across the whole front will be a three-foot veranda. The uniformity of these buildings give them a strikingly handsome appearance.

The hospital is 58 x 104 feet and the rooms are models of comfort for the treatment of the sick. It is being furnished now under the personal supervision of Dr. Richards, the post surgeon and a most agreeable gentleman who is eminently qualified to minister to the wants of the invalid.

Three large warehouses, 25 X 200 feet are built for the Quartermaster's use. These are filled with supplies necessary to maintain the command. The guard house—a necessary adjunct to all military posts—is a large stone building and abundantly able to restrain the wrong doer.

The commissary depot is 65 x 125 feet, and adjoining is the root house filled with vegetables. There are four stables, 25 X 160 feet for the use of the cavalry, and perhaps half a dozen other buildings for workshops, etc.



Fort Maginnis, 1886

Photo: CULVER (via Internet)

The laundresses are provided for with a row of six cozy cottages that, when completed, will be neat and comfortable homes.

Broadwater, McNamara & Co are post suttlers and have erected a number of build-ings suitable for their business. Their store is really a magnificent room, replete with a large stock of general merchandise, and the handsome counters and fancy cornice decor-ations give the place a very attractive ap-pearance. Two large warehouses have also been built, and other buildings for the use of the firm are nearing completion. The entire management of the business is in the hands of McNamara who is young man of splendid business qualifications and in doing an extensive business.

The writer is indebted to the officers of the post, and particularly to Captain Floyd and Major Bartlett, for many courtesies extended during his brief visit.

Photo of Fort Maginnis, taken at its height between 1880 and its abandonment in July, 1890.

Photo from the Internet.

I cannot close this letter without calling the attention of the Benton business men to the fact that unless an effort is made to have roads constructed to the rapidly growing sections, our merchants will lose a trade they would otherwise control. Already efforts are being made to divert this trade into other channels, and the effort will prove successful unless prompt and active measures are taken to construct such highways.



The article below is taken from the Deer Lodge New Northwest newspaper of Jan. 7, 1870. Its the type of news that would be current today, although not treated so frivorously. The 'kicker' is in the P.S.!!!!

“Throw up Your Hands!”—One of the most charmingly pleasant incidents that has occurred in the history of Deer Lodge transpired in the school-room of Miss Helen Witters the other day. While hearing a recitation, she casually glanced around the room and observed an incipient sovereign of six or eight glorious summers leaning nonchalantly back in his seat, with a navy six shooter resting on the desk before him and aimed point blank at herself. It was not a good time or place to faint. So, mustering up good courage, she made a slight detour to the left, flanked the battery and asked him “If that nasty dread ful thing was loaded?” “Yes ‘em.” An unconditional surrender was demanded in the name of the United States and the Superintendent of Public Instruction which was acceded to by the youngster, and the piece of artillery is now in the honorable possession of the Instructress.

P. S.—The pleasant part was in getting the pistol away from that boy, who is from Chicago, and liable to do anything.

Prices of comodeties as quoted in the Helena Herald.

HELENA PRODUCE MARKET.

HELENA, December 11, 1876.

The markets the past week have been easy and quiet, the prices ranging about the same as last week.

Oats in good demand from the wagons, at wholesale, \$3.00.

Flour, in good demand; Willow Creek, XXX, \$7.50; Union XXX, \$7.50; Standard Mills XXX, Madison Mills XXX, and Gallatin Mills XXX, \$6.00.

Barley—Brewers, in good demand, \$4.50; feed, \$2.50.

Wheat, in good demand, none in market.

Bran and Shorts, in good demand, at \$2.50.

Butter, choice, 40c. Common, 27½c.

Eggs, 75c.

Potatoes, \$20 per ton.

Cabbage, \$2.00 per cwt.

Pork, net, 12c.

Hay, \$12 per ton.

The GHOST TOWN of EMERY

by TERRY HALDEN

Located on the west slopes of the Divide, east of Deer Lodge is the mining district of Zosel, and the ghost town of Emery.

In 1872 H.L. Hoffman and George Boothroyd first discovered placer gold in Rocker Gulch, a tributary of Cottonwood Creek, seven miles east of Cottonwood City (as Deer Lodge was then known). But their success was modest and it was not until the late 1880s, while searching for the source of placer gold in Rocker Gulch, did prospectors finally find several lucrative lode mines. William Zosel's Bonanza mine gave rise to the namesake camp and mining district of Zosel, which opened a post office in 1892. But it was William Emery who claimed the most productive mine, which bore his name.

As the mines sank deeper, gold gave way to silver galena, and in its issue of March 25, 1893, the New North West of Deer Lodge raved: *'In Zosel at the present time there is notable activity. There would be no less than five silver producing mines and the erection of a custom smelter near this city would result. Zosel is destined to be one of the best camps in the country'*. Later that year the government stopped purchasing silver at an inflated price, and the resulting crash spelled disaster for the mining district and town of Zosel. But it was soon to recover, as the Carbonate Extension Co. in Deer Lodge, in a reported silent partnership with local cattle baron Conrad Kohrs, invested in the claims of Emery and others. Although Zosel continued to work his Bonanza mine, locals now referred to the repopulated town as Emery.

A partnership led by Phillip Harrington, reported the May 1, 1896, edition of New North West newspaper, leased the Emery mine. The partners paid 25 percent royalties to the owners yet still cleared \$7,500 a month. The newspaper noted that Emery was a company town with no saloons but well supplied stores and a boardinghouse boasting *"a first class table."* All year freighter Jack Reid hauled daily loads of ore down the mountain to the railhead in Deer Lodge, in winter using huge bobsleds.

Emery got a new post office in 1896, which operated almost continuously until 1906. It would reopen in 1936 for less than two years.

The Emery Mining Co., headed by Marvin W. Trask, in 1902, bought out the Carbonate Extension's assets and erected a concentrator at the mine. Shipping high grade concentrated ore (46 percent gold, 44 percent silver and 10 percent lead), the company pulled down nearly a half million dollars profit in just five years. Emery's population peaked at about 400.

Everything came to a grinding halt in 1907 when Emery Mining sold out to an English syndicate that knew little about mining and even less about running a company. Its partners fought among themselves, ran out of capital, went bankrupt and closed the mine. The town emptied out.

It wasn't until 1910 that the Emery Consolidated Co., a group of experienced men who knew the mine and its potential, bought the Emery property at a sheriff's auction and re-opened the mine and mill. An eager workforce soon moved into the existing cabins in town. Production continued until 1923, the last year the tailings were worked. Other mines kept producing on and off, though, and the town held on.

The Emery reopened in 1931, its lessees sinking a new shaft 850 feet and building a flotation mill. Though an explosives ban shut down production during the war years, operations otherwise continued through 1948. Meanwhile, the Bonanza mine, which the Zosel family had operated straight through until 1924, peaked in 1947-48, yielding 686 ounces of gold and 3,569 ounces of silver. The first mine to open in the district, the Bonanza was also the last to close, in 1950. In the decades since, the town of Emery has slowly deteriorated.



The Mine Superintendent's office at the Emery mine

Photo:
TERRY
HALDEN



LEFT: The boarding house at Emery, taken in 2004

BELOW & BELOW LEFT: The boarding house at Emery, taken in 2013, showing the roof collapse.



All photos taken in 2013 by:

TERRY HALDEN

UNCOVERING A COMMUNITY

An African American Family in Nineteenth Century Bozeman

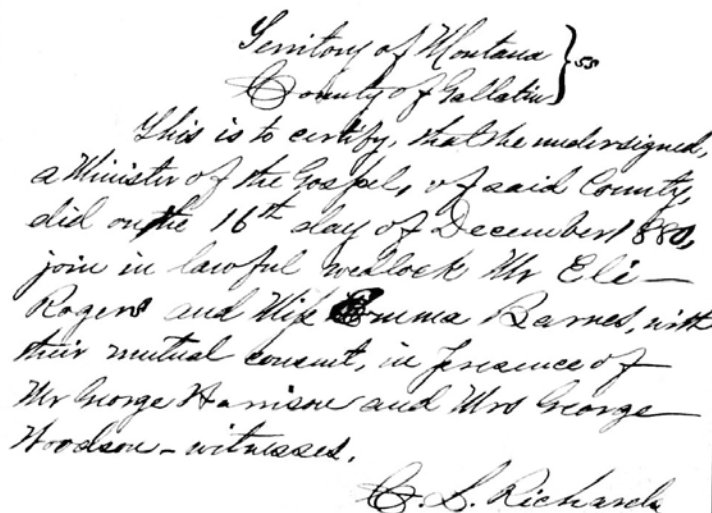
By Crystal Alegria – The Extreme History Project

The African American community in historic Bozeman is nearly invisible until you begin to examine the historic census records, newspaper accounts, and city directories. Only then do Bozeman's black citizens come into focus. One name leads to another and soon a tight knit and thriving African American Group emerges during the late 19th century. Working as machinists, laborers, laundresses, housekeepers, and porters, Bozeman's African Americans contributed to the building of our city through their labor, religious activity, child rearing, social clubs and community participation.

There were many black families in Bozeman during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries including the Lewis, Bruce, Woodson, Smith, Harrison, Ward, McDonald, Anderson and Rogers families just to name a few. The members of these families were friends and often inter-married as revealed through marriage licenses and newspaper accounts.

One of the earliest families to arrive and settle in Bozeman was the family of Emma Barnes. Emma was a young mother of four children when she arrived in Bozeman, Montana Territory sometime prior to 1880. She had come west from parts unknown. She first makes her appearance in the 1880 Bozeman Census. She is listed as a 21 year old Black woman living in Bozeman with her four children, Lulu being the oldest at 10 years old followed by Berry, Willy and Charles the youngest at four months. Her occupation is listed a Laundress. In December of the same year Emma married Eli Rogers. The Marriage Certificate reads, "Territory of Montana County of Gallatin – This is to certify that the undersigned, a minister of the gospels of said County did on the 16th day of December 1880 join in lawful wedlock Mr. Eli Rogers and wife Emma Barnes with their mutual consent, in presence of Mr. George Harrison and Mrs. George Woodson – witnessed. C.L. Richards." Ten months later Emma and Eli welcomed their first child. The local newspaper, The Avant Courier, ran a notice in October of 1881 that, "Born – At Bozeman, MT. October 24, 1881, to the wife of Elijah Rodgers, a daughter." This daughter was named Kittie and she is the first of eight children born to Eli and Emma over the next seventeen years. For the duration of these seventeen years, Emma and Eli lived on the North side of Bozeman on Black Street. Unfortunately their house no longer stands, but was once located at what is now Beall Park.

Lulu Barnes, who was the oldest child of Emma's when she first arrived in Bozeman was born in 1872 and census records list her birthplace as Crow Agency which at that time was located 10 miles east of present day Livingston. Emma may have been working at the Agency as a laundress or just passing through when she had Lulu. There is not much information on Lulu in the historical record until she is married in 1890 to Charles A. Mayo on November 20th. For unknown reasons this marriage did not last and Lulu marries Walter J. Harrison on October 10, 1899 According to the Polk Directory Charles Mayo moved to Great Falls in 1902. Lulu and Walter were married at Emma and Eli's house with the Reverend G.H. Feese officiating. Feese was a pastor at the local M.E. Church and officiated many of the weddings in Bozeman's African American community. The witnesses for this marriage were father-in-law Eli and her sister Kittie. The next year Lulu and Walter are found by the census recorder in Anaconda, MT and Walter is working as a machinist. They have a daughter, Viola who was born in 1893 so she may be the daughter of Lulu's first marriage to Charles Mayo. Lulu and Walter were back in Bozeman by 1910 and lived approximately three blocks away from Emma and Eli. Lulu lived until 1939 and Walter died in 1958. They are both buried in Bozeman's Sunset Hills Cemetery. Their daughter, Viola, disappears from the historical record after 1910. Just a year earlier in 1909 she stands up as a witness at her aunt's (Lulu's sister-in-law Edna's) wedding. More than likely she was married after 1910 which makes it difficult to track her due to her name change.



Territory of Montana }
County of Gallatin }
This is to certify, that the undersigned,
a Minister of the Gospels, of said County,
did on the 16th day of December 1880,
join in lawful wedlock Mr Eli
Rogers and Miss Emma Barnes, with
their mutual consent, in presence of
Mr George Harrison and Mrs George
Woodson - witnessed,
C.L. Richards

Marriage certificate of Emma Barnes and Eli Rogers



The grave of Lulu and Walter Harrison in Sunset Hills cemetery in Bozeman. Walter's inscription is missing but he is interred with Lulu, according to cemetery records.



The grave marker for Henry Rogers in Golden Gate National cemetery in San Mateo County, Calif.

Emma and Eli's son and Lulu's brother-in-law, Henry Irving Rogers, was born in 1891. Henry grew up in Bozeman and married a woman, Sadie Jefferson, when he was twenty-two years old. Sadie was from Little Rock Arkansas and was also African American. Five years after they were married Henry enlisted in the Army and was in World War I. He was discharged on October 10, 1919 and came back to Bozeman. He worked as a mechanic and lived on Main Street near present day Willson School. Henry must have had a long-lasting injury from the war because in 1931 he is admitted to a veteran's home in Dayton, Ohio. He is discharged six months later. The next time Henry shows up is in the 1940 census when he is living in a Veterans Administration facility in Los Angeles, CA. He died in 1955 and was buried at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Mateo County, CA. His headstone reads that he was a First Sargent, Supply Company in the 815 Pioneer Infantry during World War I.

Henry's brother Fred also enlisted in the Army in 1917 and participated in World War I. Fred was married in 1913 to Julia Watterson, also African American. They lived together on North Black Street until Fred left for the war. Fred returned to Bozeman after the war but died shortly after in November of 1919.

Form 1		REGISTRATION CARD		No. 104
1	Name in full <u>Fred Rogers</u>	Age in yrs.	<u>30</u>	
2	Home address <u>606 No. Black Bozeman Mont</u>			
3	Date of birth <u>Nov. 25 1887</u>			
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? <u>Natural Born</u>			
5	Where were you born? <u>Bozeman Mont.</u>			
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? <u>✓</u>			
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <u>Laborer</u>	30		
8	By whom employed? <u>Fred Harris</u>			
9	Where employed? <u>Bozeman</u>			
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? <u>Wife and help to support</u>			
10	Married or single (which)? <u>Married</u> Race (specify which)? <u>Fair</u>			
11	What military service have you had? Rank <u>none</u> ; branch <u>✓</u>			
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? <u>✓</u>			
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.				
679 Fred Rogers.				

Fred Rogers's Draft Card

Emma and Eli had many friends in Bozeman including Lucy Anderson. According to the Avant Courier newspaper, Emma and Eli were married at Lucy's house. Lucy was born around 1840-1849 in Tennessee, most likely born into slavery. Her mother and father were also from Tennessee and probably slaves. How and why Lucy came to Montana we can only guess, but in 1870 she lived in Helena, Montana with her husband John Anderson who was also of African American descent. In the census records John is listed as a laborer and Lucy is listed as "keeping house." By the next census recording in 1880 Lucy and John have moved to Bozeman and are living in a lodging house owned by proprietor George Wakefield. They are both listed as "servants" with John also listed as a farmer. No children are noted in either the 1870 or 1880 census documents. Lucy and John separated sometime after June 2, 1880. On April 21st 1881 Lucy is married to Greenbury Chopper. Lucy and Greenbury separate a few years later, sometime before Lucy's death in 1890. Lucy died a mysterious death. Her obituary notes that she was found in her cabin, "in the demi-monde" portion of Bozeman, then located on the East side of Bozeman Creek. Lucy was found dead in her cabin laying in a distorted position, partly on her bed and partly on the floor. The Anaconda Standard newspaper reported that "The body when found was lying across the bed with the bed clothes thrown over the woman's head." The City Marshal, Mr. King and County Coroner, Dr. Hogan were notified and went to the cabin to examine the body, they reported nothing amiss and did not request an investigation. The undertaker, Mr. Kay, was not as convinced this was an accident. When taking measurements for the coffin he noticed that Ms. Anderson's neck was dislocated and suggested an inquest or at least a post-mortem before internment. A jury was summoned and they determined that Lucy's neck must have been dislocated by "careless handling of the body after death." Lucy's funeral took place the following Sunday afternoon and was attended by "most of the colored population and several other citizens of the town, Rev. Bennett officiating."

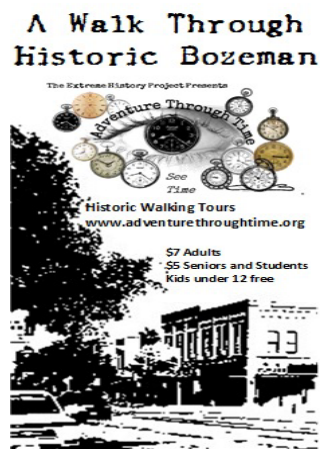
The details of Lucy's life are frustratingly sparse. Her obituary does note that she was a "conspicuous" character not only of Bozeman but of other cities in Montana. "In her earlier years she was well known as a good housekeeper, an excellent cook and a careful, experienced nurse." The obit goes on to say that Lucy, "gradually retrograded, became addicted somewhat to immoderate drinking and was thus deprived of her former usefulness and lost to a great extent the respect and confidence of her former friends." Lucy is likely buried in Sunset Hills Cemetery in the unmarked-grave area in the northwest portion of the cemetery. On the

City of Bozeman's interactive cemetery map there is a listing of "Anderson" with an "unknown" first name in the cemetery records. The map shows the plot of the unknown Anderson located in the paupers section.

In life these families were a close-knit community and now in death they are close to each other as well. Eli and Emma are both buried in Sunset Hills Cemetery near Lulu. The Rogers family is buried in the same section as many of the other black community members including the McDonalds, the Bruce's, the Lewis family, the Wards, the Woodson's and many more. Emma died in 1901 and her obituary in the Avant Courier read, "Mrs. Eli Rodgers was laid to rest in the Bozeman cemetery Tuesday afternoon. Her death occurred Sunday, the end of a long illness from which she suffered a great deal. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Geo. C. Rector, of Morton Methodist church. Mrs. Rodgers has resided in Gallatin for a great many years, and she was the mother of a large family of children, nearly all of them now living in the city. Besides her children, she leaves a husband, and large circle of friends to mourn her taking away."

History is filled with the deeds of the powerful and mighty, but lacks the real stories of those who truly built our country brick by brick. Many of these stories are lost to time and often forgotten. Giving these forgotten members of our community a voice reveals a richer, more poignant understanding of Bozeman's development and recognizes the contributions of all its former citizens which elevates the work of all who contribute to our community today.

If you would like to learn more about the African American community in Bozeman, The Extreme History Project is hosting a historic walking tour this summer called, "Family Matters: Bozeman's Historic African American Community" starting the end of June, 2015. Check out our Adventure Through Time website for more details. www.adventurethroughtime.org.



Who was NATE VESTAL?

by **TERRY HALDEN**

The February 21, 1878 issue of the Helena Herald reported “*Our reporter, calling at the banking house of L. H. Hershfield this morning, was treated to an exhibition of golden treasure seldom witnessed in such profusion anywhere. Heaped up on back counter were a dozen chunks of the yellow metal, 1,500 ounces in all, worth at \$16 an ounce; total value, \$24,000 – all having been taken from the Snow Drift.*” A month later the same newspaper informed its readers that the Snow Drift and its nearby, more valuable extension, the Penobscot, both owned by Nate Vestal had received an offer of purchase from Messrs. Frazier and Chalmers of Chicago in the amount of \$300,000, to be paid over 60 days. If Vestal was to back out of the deal it would cost him \$5,000. Further in the article the reporter advised that he was shown Mr. Vestal’s personal check in the said amount – The deal was off. Who was Nate Vestal, that he could scorn such a settlement?

Nathan Spencer Vestal was born in North Carolina on February 14, 1835, but when he was aged six, his father, a skilled mechanic died. As a result, Nathan’s schooling was somewhat haphazard and he was mainly self-educated. With the consent of his mother, at age 17 he left home, contracted to a R. M. Turner, for \$100 and board & clothes, to help drive a bull team to California, a journey of five months. Arriving at Marysville, California, with the gold rush mania still in full swing, Vestal was tempted to join the Argonauts, who were earning up to \$80 a month, but as he still had seven months on his contract he fulfilled his obligation. When his time was completed, he struck out on his own, and in no time had earned a few hundred dollars. The silver rush in Nevada attracted him, but by helping fellow prospectors out and running into some bad luck, in 1864, he returned to California, dead broke. He signed onboard a schooner plying between Sacramento and San Francisco, for \$35.00 a month but concluded he was not cut out to be a seaman and after one month, with wages in his pocket, he quit. He had been bitten by the ‘prospecting bug’.

This time, in partnership with others he was relatively successful, even naming one mine the ‘Vestal’. In 1867 he sold his share for \$1,000 cash and lit out for the new bonanzas, he had heard about, in Montana Territory, arriving in Helena in April of that year. Crossing the Divide to the Ophir Mining District, he bought an interest in No. 3 below discovery on Carpenter’s Creek, paying his last \$700 for the investment. The pay ground was narrow and in six weeks was worked-out, leaving the owner, once again, dead broke. He tried, unsuccessfully, looking for work in the Lincoln area, and then walked down to the McClellan area. He did some heavy drifting work and the following spring found he was \$70 in the black. Returning to the Canyon Creek area, along with some others he contracted to build a ditch which provided him with additional funds.

His luck had changed. In the fall of 1868, he was on Virginia Creek, a branch of Canyon Creek, and in partnership with Wilborn, McCormick and others he worked placer ground. The following spring the successful operation was sold to a Wm. Roe for \$27,000, of which Vestal’s share was a quarter. After this checkered experience in placer digging, Vestal changed his field of operations and turned his energies to prospecting.

Over the next few years he had ‘up and down’ luck in the Stemple Mining District, some successful, others costly, but in June, 1876, in prospecting the Ottawa Creek, near where Marysville was soon to evolve, he located the Emma mine. He started to develop it by building an arastra and after taking on a partner, Capt. Sears, together they located the nearby Belmont mine. Although the two mines were paying handsomely in the late fall of 1877, Vestal wandered further up Ottawa Creek and over the Divide, where he inspected a mine owned by Murphy, Silver, Rader and Nash, the locators that they had named the ‘Snow Drift’. He purchased the property, discontinued the operation for the winter, recommencing the following spring. The more he dug out of the original shaft and a second shaft he started, that he named the ‘Penobscot’ the richer became the ore. Again he built a crude arastra to process the ore. The partnership with Capt. Sears was dissolved with him taking the ‘Belmont’ and ‘Emma’ and Vestal retaining the ‘Snow Drift’ and ‘Penobscot’. On the basis of what was developing, Vestal had no problem in getting a bank loan to build a ten horse-power engine to operate a small stamp mill.

This takes us to the spring of 1878 and the famous ‘No Thanks’ that cost him \$5,000. Vestal continued to make money from his mine and a month later he did sell it to an eastern company, headed by William Frue, the inventor of the Frue vanner milling equipment for a cool \$500,000. Vestal continued to invest in mining claims, got married, bought a ranch, some blooded horses and by the turn of the century was broke again. He went to Alaska to prospect for gold, returned and died on his birthday, St. Valentine’s Day, 1918. He is buried in the Benton Avenue cemetery, Helena.



Nate Vestal, along with his second wife Harriet, his son and his wife are buried in the Benton Avenue cemetery, Helena.



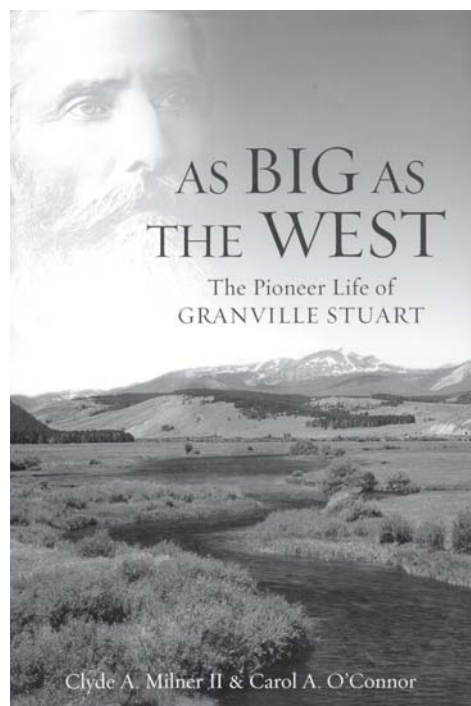
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REVIEW:

AS BIG AS THE WEST

The Frontier Life of GRANVILLE STUART

by Clyde A. Milner II & Carol A. O'Connor



This excellent biography of Granville Stuart traces his life from an Iowa farm to the California gold rush and on to the future state of Montana, where he was involved, along with his brothers, in mining, store keeping, bookkeeping, cattle ranching, vigilante hanging and ultimately diplomatic service. Throughout all this the one thing he tried to accumulate, wealth, eluded him, although his friends, Johnny Grant, James Fergus, Sam Houser, Conrad Kohrs and even "Pike" Landusky, did. Clyde A. Milner II & Carol O'Connor, Professors of History at Arkansas State University have delved into Stuart's voluminous personal diaries that he kept, along with the huge amount of personal letters that he wrote that are still in existence to present a detailed account on the life of this Montana pioneer, who lived through the era of being known as a 'squaw-man' with numerous 'half-breed' children to what he thought of as respectability. A worthwhile addition to your library.

Terry Halden