



MONTANA  
**GHOST TOWN**  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

---

preserving history for the next generation

VOLUME 45

**NEWSLETTER**

FALL 2017



A Miner's Cabin in Coloma

DARIAN HALDEN Photo

# 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.

## FALL 2017

- President:** Brad O'Grosky
- Vice President:** Sally Griffin
- Secretary / Treasurer:** Connie Griffin
- Website Administrator:** Darian Halden
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- Projects:** Darian Halden
- Membership:** Connie Griffin
- Newsletter Editor:** Terry Halden
- 2018 Convention:** Darian Halden
- Directors:** Don Black, Cindy Shearer and Gordon Tracy
- Immediate Past President:** Terry Halden

# The Prez Sez

BRAD O'GROSKY

The 2017 convention is over and was a great success thanks to Margie and Marilyn. It was fun filled with some wonderful speakers. Terry left us as president after several years of great leadership. Thanks to Terry and for continuing to ram rod the always interesting news letter. With his retirement, I have replaced him as president and Sally Griffin will replace me as vice president after her great service as secretary/ treasurer. Connie Griffin will replace Sally. And we welcome Cindy Shearer to our board and Don Black as a returning board member. Thanks to Sue Howe, Larry Hoffman and Tom Lowe for their service as they leave the board. Since some of you weren't at the convention where I told everyone my background, I felt it appropriate to share it with you.

My wife, Dee, and I moved to Bozeman from Madison, WI six years ago and learned of MGTPS from Dick and Rosemary Lee. For the past 20 years we have volunteered on archaeological surveys and rock art recording for the National Park Service, Forest Service and BLM in the four corners area. Much of that time was spent for the BLM in SE Utah in the Bears Ears National Monument area. We are site stewards for two archaeological sites there and I am a site steward in Montana. I also serve on the Historic Preservation Board of Gallatin County. I believe in preserving our history for "once it's gone, it's gone forever."

Since the Society is dependent upon its members, I would encourage everyone to tell others about it so the interest in preserving ghost towns and other parts of Montana history continues.

I hope to see all of you in the future, maybe at a ghost town.

BRAD

### AS I SEE IT

from the RAMROD'S CHAIR.

Thank you for all the kind words you folks wrote on the card I received at the convention and I would like to thank all the members that contributed to the purchase of Garmin Navigator that was given to me. Despite the 'Roasting' I got from some of the board members, I have NEVER been lost looking for ghost towns. I sometimes didn't know exactly where I was, but I can explain that away by pointing out the National Forest maps I use are extremely accurate, with all the forestry roads numbers. However the National Forestry Service often doesn't number their forestry roads in accordance with the map. At least in future I can orientate myself when I'm on some goat path, located some buildings and don't know exactly where I am

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### New Members

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

Ed Thomes – Bozeman      Michael Horwath - Creston, CA      Ann Maroney – Bozeman

Dave & Patty Hebner – Manhattan      Prof. Louise Grove - Leicestershire, UK

M.G.T.P.S.  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
September 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 2:45PM by President Terry Halden.

He asked that the minutes of the last General Meeting, which was on September 10, 2016, be approved as published in the 2016 Fall Newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to approve them. Motion passed.

Sally gave the Treasurer's Report. From the start of the fiscal year July 1, 2017, to August 31, 2017, we had Income of \$3,520.00 and Expenses of \$980.85, for a Net Income of \$2,539.15. Cash Balances are Petty Cash - \$60.20; Checking Account - \$6,915.75; and Savings - \$13,411.15, for a total of \$20,387.10.

Old Business:

In the last year, we have lost Board members Kathryn Manning, Sue Howe, Larry Hoffman, and Tom Lowe. We would like to thank them for their services on the Board.

We would like to welcome Cindy Shearer and Connie Griffin as new members on the Board, along with returning board member, Don Black

Margie Kankrlik and Marilyn Murdoch have done an excellent job in putting together this convention. We would like to thank them for all their hard work!!

New Business:

Our 2018 convention will be in Sidney, Montana. We have never held a convention there before, so there will be lots of new things to see and do. Darian Halden is the Chairman.

Darian then addressed the members and said that Sidney is a small town and they are excited to extend to us a small town welcome. Hotel accommodations will be at the Microtel for \$46/night. On Friday night we will hear about Forts Buford and Union. On Saturday, we will visit them. On Sunday we will visit the town of Enid, where many old buildings are still standing.

The dates of the convention are Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>.

Terry then announced his resignation as President. He handed the gavel over to Brad O'Grosky, the new President. Brad said that Sally Griffin will be Vice President and Connie Griffin will be Secretary/Treasurer.

Darian and Board Member Don Black entertained us with stories of their experiences with Terry. It seems that Terry has more than occasionally gotten lost as he explores and researches for his projects. So Brad presented

him with a state map, a big sign to hold up stating he was lost and needed help, and a Garmin GPS if the first two options did not help.

Brad stated he is hoping to see more and younger members, and he had brochures for us to take and pass out.

Brad then told us a little about himself, his experience, and his many activities for historic preservation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Griffin

<<<<<<< from the RAMROD'S CHAIR

continued

Looking back on my term as President, I appreciate the honor you first bestowed on me at the West Yellowstone convention in 2009, and renewed in 2013 at the convention in Helena. I did my best, had fun doing it, and hope my efforts lived up to your expectations. Yes, we may have run a few hundred dollars over on convention budgets, but the money was spent on the greatest people I know – you, the members.

Now that I'm 'retired' from the President's chair, I can spend a little more time on researching and writing about the history of Montana. For a long time I have been researching the history of 'Pike' Landusky, a very interesting character who founded the town of Landusky in the Little Rockies and there in 1894 he became the first murder victim of 'Kid' Curry.

In this issue of the newsletter you will find an article by our President, Brad O'Grosky, a report on our convention from Margie Kankrlik and Marilyn Murdock (Great job gals!) and an article about the ghost towns of Cable and Southern Cross, that I've penned. In case you are interested, the next edition of Wild West magazine (the Feb 2018 edition) will have my article about the history of the ghost town of Farlin in it.

Until the next time

Terry

# ***Murder*** on the Historic Nixon Bridge

by **BRAD O’GROSKY**

The historic Nixon Bridge crosses the Gallatin River two miles north of Manhattan on the Nixon Gulch Road. This is a story about both preservation and murder. These are strange bedfellows, but then, history sometimes gives us unusual events. The bridge, named after James Nixon, was originally built in 1891, about a mile away from where it is now, across the Gallatin River at Central Park, a community that no longer exists between Belgrade and Manhattan. Logs were floated down the Gallatin River from the Gallatin Canyon to Central Park. Here they became ties for the Northern Pacific Railroad which was moving its way west. In the early 1900s, the original bridge was washed out and was relocated from Central Park to its present location. It is a Pratt, steel truss design and because it is pinned instead of riveted, it is one of the oldest and few remaining in the state and the country of this type. Pinning, instead of riveting, allowed the bridge to be assembled at the factory and then disassembled for shipment to its ultimate location. Therefore it is not only historic, but unique as well, and must be preserved. It is a 150 foot long, single lane bridge and is eligible to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Gallatin County is planning to build a new bridge at this location and destroy the historic bridge. Because of its importance, a local group of concerned residents, including the Manhattan Rotary Club are working to preserve it. Tentative plans are to change it to a pedestrian bridge and combine it with the trail system that the Rotary Club has also created. Not only would this save the bridge, but would add to the quality of life in the area. Similar situations have existed in other areas of the state including Missoula, Great Falls, Fort Benton and Wolf Point. As each of these communities faced unique issues in preserving their bridges, it also created a resource of information and people dedicated to preserving these valuable parts of the state’s history. At times, it has felt like David facing Goliath, but being the underdog only made the desire and efforts stronger. Your organization has become interested in this effort, although this isn’t a ghost town, it was an important part of the settlement of the area and must be

preserved, as is our mission. Preservation will only become more important in the future and lessons learned from this experience will help to aid our efforts in the future. If you would like to learn more about bridges especially in Montana, go to [bridgehunters.com](http://bridgehunters.com).



The Nixon bridge

Photo courtesy AUTHOR

The Nixon Bridge is the starting place for Montana’s first serial killer. In 1967, two young boys were playing on the bridge when one, Bernard Poelman, aged 13, was shot and killed. This was the beginning of a 6 year long killing spree that included the deaths of three more young people before the killer was finally caught. This senseless crime was investigated, but the killer was not found. Then on May 7, 1968 a 12 year old Boy Scout, Michael Raney was stabbed, while he slept in a tent at the Head Waters State Park a few miles west of Manhattan. Again, the crime was investigated, but it remained unsolved. David Meirhofer, a 19 year old handyman was questioned as a possible suspect but was released for lack of evidence. The case remained open for several years and then on June 25, 1973, the Jaeger family from Farmington Hills, Michigan was camped at the Head Waters State Park. In the middle of the night, their seven year old daughter, Susan, was abducted from her tent. Again, the abduction was

investigated, but no trace of the missing girl was found. Meirhofer was again questioned but released due to lack of any solid evidence. Often during these years, he appeared numerous times, when law enforcement officers were gathered, asking questions and offering his assistance. This increased interest in the crimes continued to raise questions about his involvement, but it only raised questions and nothing more. On February 10, 1974, a nineteen year old woman, Sandra Smallegan was reported missing, from her home in Manhattan. Meirhofer was known to have known her, but again, this lead nowhere in the search to find her.

During the year after the seven year old went missing, her family in Michigan received numerous phone calls and suggestions about the whereabouts of their daughter. The FBI, who had been involved from the beginning, had recorded some of the calls. Then, on June 25, 1974, exactly one year after the abduction, at the exact time of the crime had been committed; a call was received by the parents. The Mother was able to keep the caller on the line for an hour which gave the FBI evidence that they needed to help identify the caller and the killer. Through the evidence that had been gathered at the crime scenes, along with the details of the crimes that had not been released to the public, the FBI, using offender profiling, a new police tool, were able to identify the characteristics of the criminal. This profiling, together with further leads

that they got, led law enforcement to locating additional evidence that all pointed to now 25 year old Meirhofer. On September 29, 1974, David Meirhofer was arrested for these crimes and questioned further by the FBI. At this time he confessed to all four of the crimes and was placed in the Gallatin County jail which is now the Gallatin History Museum. Four hours after he confessed to these terrible crimes he hung himself in his cell. In 2005, while working on a building in Manhattan, contractors found further evidence of Meirhofer's involvement in the crimes as he had worked on the same building years before. Through these tragic events, the FBI was able to create offender profiling which is used to help solve many crimes more rapidly than in the past, especially stopping further crimes being committed by possible serial criminals. Criminal programs on television, such as "Criminal Minds" use the offender profiling to solve their crimes. If you would like to learn more about this story, go on the Internet to [dailymotion.com/video/x2kn5uf](http://dailymotion.com/video/x2kn5uf), which is a broadcast of the 2003 film of "FBI Files". Although Meirhofer's name is changed to Masterson, it is the story of Montana's first serial killer.

The Mother of seven year old, Susan Jaeger has written a book titled "The Lost Child". It is not a story about the abduction, but instead about a Mother's journey to forgiveness of a brutal killer.

Sometimes, you didn't have to commit murder to get hung, during the mining frontier. This clipping from the Rocky Mountain Husband newspaper of June 20, 1882 attests to that.

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—At last accounts Miss Cutler, of the Sweet Grass, who was shot by Joe Harrison, was still alive. The story of the affair is a shocking one. Harrison was an admirer of the young lady, and had at one time found favor in her eyes; but, "as the course of true love never runs smooth," lost his prestige. She refused to accompany him to a dance on the 4th, and also to dance with him when there. He became so incensed at this that on the following day he called to see her and shot her three times in the arm, shoulder and right lung, for which he paid the penalty with his life, as a mob took him from his guards, hung him, then riddled his body with bullets. The young lady was making her home at the house of the would-be-murderer's brothers, and the sad affair, of course, is very distressing.

# TRAVELING THROUGH TIME 2017 CONVENTION

Thank you to all the supporters of the 2017 convention held in Bozeman this year. It was nice to see people we haven't seen in a long time. Our intent was to cover the history of how Bozeman developed and why it did not become a ghost town. As you may know, or have speculated, conventions since 2013 have all lost money. We chose a different format this year which avoided renting a bus, accommodating bathroom stops, difficulty hearing, walking on uneven ground which allowed us to take advantage of each site's liability policies which eliminated the need for costly event insurance, etc. We are pleased to report that, while we still lost money, the entire convention loss was \$11.38. This is due to the fact that almost \$1000 of gift cards and in kind donations was given by various individuals and companies.

For those of you who could not attend, you missed a most enjoyable, informative, and entertaining convention.



Arlyn Greydanus

It started on Friday at the Gallatin History Museum (GHM) with greetings of friends, both old and new, followed by an abundant dinner, most of which was donated. We were fortunate to have Arlyn Greydanus, Captain of the Detective Division with the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, join us. He has actual experience of working in the old jail (now the GHM) and entertained everyone with some of his experiences while there. He then led a tour through the tunnel which allowed inmates to be moved from the jail to the courthouse next door. Attendees were



Bill Rossiter

then entertained by Bill Rossiter, who told stories and sang songs with his Home, Home on the Ranch program.

Saturday the events were all held at the Best Western GranTree Hotel, which did an excellent job with service and food. Cindy Shearer, Executive Director of the GHM, gave a short overview of Gallatin County.



Lower Bridger Canyon School

She was followed by the Bridger Canyon Preservation Board, led by Pauline Sager, who gave a history of Lower Bridger Canyon School, changes made, and its current use. The MGTPS donated money to this project several years ago and it appears the money was well used. This beautiful picture of the school is the cover of cards which can be purchased. Money raised is used for the maintenance of the school.

Dr. Tom Rust was the next speaker and he gave a lively, informative and very interesting talk on the history of Fort Ellis. He was highly qualified as a speaker as he has had a book published titled: Lost Fort Ellis: A Frontier History of Bozeman.



Dr. Tom Rust

# A report

by MARGIE KANKRLIK & MARILYN MURDOCK



Dale Martin

Dale Martin, a popular history instructor at MSU, then gave a presentation on the importance of the railroad in Bozeman, the Bon Ton District, the Cannery area, etc. Everyone was amazed at his presentation skills. He did not have a Power Point presentation or any notes. He captivated the audience.

A break was taken and a delicious lunch of soup and turkey wraps was enjoyed by all.

Michael Fox, Curator of the Museum of the Rockies, gave a very interesting presentation of breweries in Gallatin County. The importance and success of local agriculture enabled breweries to make delicious brews years ago. Gallatin County has wonderful microbrews still today.



Michael Fox



Brad O'Grosky &  
Terry Halden

The Annual General Meeting was next and Terry Halden announced his resignation as President of this group. He is replaced by Brad O'Grosky. Thank you to Terry for all he has done and best of luck to Brad as he takes over the helm.

It was now time for some lighthearted, yet informative, fun. The Last Best GeriActors, a readers theater group, performed "Laying the Foundation", an original play written by Faye Christensen. This is a play about Louisa Couselle, a very successful madam in the early days of Bozeman. Attendees were surprised to discover that she taught manners to cowboys, furnished the books for the library, funded the Bozeman Police Department, lent money at various interest rates (depending on who you were), gave money to those in need, etc. She died a very wealthy woman after having a very positive impact on the City of Bozeman.



The Last Best GeriActors

Cocktails and a fabulous dinner started the evening, followed by a presentation by Dia Johnson, a true lover of history and an excellent presenter. She focused on additional contributions of Louisa Couselle as well as major contributions of others in similar professions. Bozeman would not be what it is today without the care, generosity, and good heartedness of these ladies.

Sunday, attendees met at the old railroad depot where we met Dale Martin. Dale expanded on the importance of the railroad and we actually had a train roll past during his presentation. Dale was generous in adding to the initial railroad talk and led the group to the Lehrkind Brewery, pointed out the old flour mill, etc.

Friends then departed using a self guided map designed by Rachel Philips of the GHM to continue seeing the sights that were discussed over the weekend.

# The Ghost Towns of Cable and Southern Cross

by TERRY HALDEN

Following the placer activity in Georgetown Flats (which would eventually become Georgetown Lake), prospectors began to explore the hills above. In the spring of 1867, Jonas Stough, John B. Pierson, and Alexander Aiken, were on the south slope of what was to become Cable Mountain, when they found a considerable amount of float gold. The Montana Post of Virginia City, reported in its October 12 edition of that year: "*The first discovery of free gold bearing float rock was made on the on June 7, '67 and the latter part of the same month the ledge was found*". Three days later the trio registered their claim at Deer Lodge, the county seat, naming it the 'Atlantic Cable', in honor of the Trans Atlantic cable that had been laid two years previously. By the fall, with a force of nine men working, a quarter mile below the mine, they had a crude arrastra in operation and the newspaper article stated that there was 1,200 tons of rock, ready to go to the mill which had been assayed at \$427.87 in gold to the ton.

More milling power was needed and this cost more money. It appears the trio approached William Nolan, a banker, and on October 11, 1867, signed some form of mortgage for a sum of \$30,000 with the collateral being they guaranteed ten thousand ton of ore from the mine. Nolan, in turn, contracted with George Plaisted to build a twenty stamp, each 450 lbs, mill, which started operating that winter.

1868 was a banner year with the mine making, according to newspaper reports, as much as \$8,000 a week. By now a small community of miners had come to the area and a camp, named Cable City materialized, securing a post office, for the first time on July 20, 1868.

As 1869 arrived the main shaft was down 150 feet and a tunnel was being started into a large pocket of ore when disaster struck. Because of poor timbering, the entire mine caved in. Miraculously, no one was injured. The cave-in resulted in delinquency on mortgage payments and the subsequent litigation over ownership, closed the mine on what appeared to be a permanent basis. Miners drifted away to find better work prospects. In July 1869, the post office closed, although it did reopen a year later, as by then a few other mines were operating, and considerable placer mining was being done on the hillside below. Conrad Kohrs was one of those who were interested in the placer mining prospects and together, with Salton Cameron as a partner, he invested \$20,000, a princely sum in 1872, to construct a twelve mile ditch which would bring in enough water for hydraulic mining. That fall, in an eight week period, the pair took out \$18,000 in gold and the following spring, a further \$37,000.

In the fall of 1873, following his success at hydraulic mining, Cameron was again prospecting the upper reaches of Cable Mountain, when he struck gold quartz. At a mine he called the 'Luxemburg' he invested his savings in a 20-stamp Hanauer mill, and although his good luck continued for a few years, it came to a sudden stop, when the mine lost the vein. After considerable digging and blasting through solid granite, Cameron was smart enough to quit, and without any ore to process, the mill was closed. Cameron abandoned the mill and the mine and moved on to relocate the nearby 'Southern Cross' mine.





The two remaining cabins at the town of Cable, both are on private property.

Photo courtesy AUTHOR

The 'Southern Cross' is at the 7,000 foot level, affording a spectacular view of Georgetown Lake, 600 feet below. Initially discovered in 1866, by an unknown prospector, the 'Southern Cross', was not worked on, and the claim lapsed. It wasn't until Cameron relocated it did any development occur. In 1884, he erected a small 10-stamp mill to crush the ore at the site, but his efforts met with limited success and because of a lack of capital, he was forced to sell out to a group of Butte businessmen. They retained him as general manager of their company, the Southern Cross Gold Mining Company. The February 21<sup>st</sup> 1890 edition of the New North-West reported that Cameron was going to a company board meeting in Butte, carrying a gold brick that was valued at \$4,000. However, this seems to be the exception, as production was usually unremarkable.

Meantime, Cable had experienced another downturn, as the Rocky Mountain Husbandman recorded on September 26<sup>th</sup> 1878: "*Cable, (is) a forlorn looking town with two idle quartz mills, many deserted and torn down houses, and but one solitary inhabitant. The hillside below the discovery has been washed bare to bedrock*". Apparently, no one told Washington, for the town retained its post office.

At about this time, less than a half mile southwest of Cable, the 'Pyrenees' mining property was being enthusiastically developed. A 10-stamp mill, along with amalgamation plates had been installed and a small camp, known as Pyrenees was growing. It procured a post office in 1887 that lasted until the bubble burst in 1891. After almost a decade of production, the mine closed down and the camp evaporated. There were

attempts at revival in 1918 and again in 1934, but today there is no trace of of the camp or the mine, nature having reclaimed the land.

But Cable's history wasn't finished. J. C. Savery, whose wife was the sister of Nolan, had emerged from the lengthy litigation with clear title to the 'Cable' mine. In 1883, as he started digging a second adit to where he suspected the rich vein existed, he used Cameron's old Hanauer mill to process the ore. But, as the quality, and quantity of ore increased, he borrowed money, erected a third mill, and also installed compressed air equipment in the mine. When he finally struck the elusive vein, he was able to pay off all his debts in just one month.

Throughout the 1880's the mine continued to produce, although there were some bleak episodes when the miners struck a 'dry' spot of barren rock. It lasted until 1891, when the mine was, once again, idle, and allowed to flood. In 1902, Savery leased the property to two brothers, F. W. and H. C. Bacorn. They processed the tailings at a profit, and, two years later, in the course of pumping out the mine and re-timbering, they discovered an overlooked vein of ore, at the 200 foot level. This convinced them to purchase the mine, and as the Cable Consolidated Mining Co. they proceeded to open up the new drift. By 1905, the Montana Mining Report indicated that they had forty four men employed and over 3,000 feet of tunneling with some vast chambers existing at the 200 foot level. The mine had a modern 30-stamp mill that handled the ore, and the owners intended sinking a shaft to greater depth in anticipation of more prospects at lower levels. In 1911, H. C. Bacorn was reported to have taken a lease on

the nearby 'Hidden Treasure' for a quarter of a million dollars, thereby increasing his holdings in the district.



The boarding house at the 'Southern Cross' with its magnificent view of Georgetown Lake.

BELOW: The mill buildings.

Photos, courtesy AUTHOR



Back at the 'Southern Cross' in 1904, Cameron had been replaced by Lucien Eaves as general manager, and that year, in the course of grading a roadway, 150 feet below the mine entrance, workers stumbled upon a new outcrop of gold quartz. It proved to be the main lode. The State Inspector's Mining Report for 1905 stated "*the property has been quite extensively developed during the past year, the incline shaft now being down 350 feet, and is equipped with a skip and steam hoist. Altogether, some 2000 feet of development has been accomplished and sixty men are given steady employment. The property has a 60 - ton mill and cyanide plant where the output of*

*the mine is treated, except for for the higher grades of ore, which are shipped direct to smelters (in Anaconda).* The report also indicated that other properties in the immediate vicinity were being opened, naming the 'McAuliff' mine, west of the 'Southern Cross' listed as 'promising'.

In 1907, the dry crushing mill was upgraded to wet crushing, and in 1910, when the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. bought the property and laid a spur line to the mine connecting it by rail to the smelters, production took off. By this time there were a permanent number of miners employed and many built cabins, while others, the single men, lived in the company bunkhouse. A camp emerged, with the usual amenities, including a post office that was established in 1910 and lasted until 1942. The mine was a steady producer of gold, silver and copper until the early 1930s and intermittently afterward until 1940. That year the main shaft was down over 600 feet, and below the water level of Georgetown Lake with the result extensive flooding occurred. It eventually forced the final closing of the mine.

With the shutting down of the mine, most residents of the town drifted away, and cabins were torn down. But a few stayed and in the 1950's and 60's newcomers, appreciating the magnificent views arrived to set up summer homes. The Anaconda Co. donated land for the erection of St. Timothy's Chapel, which still serves worshippers today, and is a favorite of marrying couples. In the 1970's new younger residents arrived, merging with the older residents, cleaning up old mining company residue, renovating old cabins or building new ones, and forming a tight knit community. Although the mining property is currently owned by Magellan Resources, there does not appear to be any indication of renewed mining activity.

At the 'Cable' mine, a similar history occurred in that it continued to operate for the first two decades of the new century before falling silent. Bacorn's estate sold the property to the Canyon Lode Mining Co. and there was an attempt in 1949 to reopen the mine, when it was reported that seven men were working in what was then almost three miles of underground tunnels. But the effort was short lived. In 1960, the mill burned down and today only a few dilapidated cabins and mine buildings remain, ravaged by time and vandals. The area is on private property and closed to the public.



A Miner's cabin , converted for use as a summer home at Southern Cross.  
BELOW: The St. Timothy's Church. Both have views of Georetown Lake.

Photos, courtesy AUTHOR.

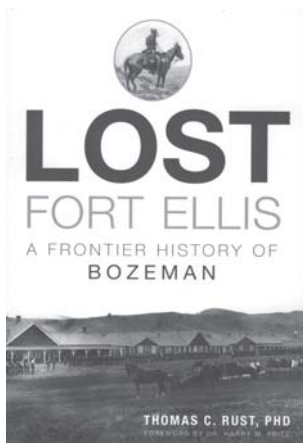




P.O. BOX 1861, BOZEMAN, MT, 59771-1861

## REVIEW:

# LOST Fort Ellis, a Frontier History of Bozeman by THOMAS C. RUST PHD



One of the guest speakers at our recent convention was Thomas C. Rust, PHD, who spoke on his book 'Lost Fort Ellis, a Frontier History of Bozeman'. This is neither a history of Bozeman nor Fort Ellis, although both histories are referred to as peripheral backgrounds, rather it is a history of the relationship, of one to the other. An interesting and unusual aspect that deserves to be explored, and as the author states in his Acknowledgements, it was originally written as his master's Thesis when he was studying at the University of Denver. As a thesis it is original and great, but how do you expand the idea that the townspeople wanted the fort to annihilate the Indians, whereas the soldiers thought of themselves as the only friends the Indians had, to a full 135 page book, and keep the readers interested?

Of course the town benefitted from the fort, from entertaining the troops on their days off, to local merchants selling goods to the fort, (the merchants also made their money by fleecing Fort Parker, the first Crow Agency and its successor, the second Crow Agency: see our Fall 2012 newsletter for both articles) to the surrounding countryside supplying fresh vegetables and other staples. The fort also provided what the town deemed it needed: protection from marauding Indians coming from the east. But all this is fairly obvious to the average local history buff. Fort Ellis played a pivotal role in the Indian wars staged in Montana and the history of the fort, along with the history of Fort Maginnis are yet to be written.

Terry Halden