



MONTANA
GHOST TOWN
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

preserving history for the next generation

VOLUME 46

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018



Where the Poplar River (above right) enters the Missouri (See story, 'the Battle at Poplar River' on page 8).
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.

WINTER 2018

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- 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

I hope this finds all of you well and having a Happy New Year. I feel that this needs to be the year of preservation. We recently lost the Merc in Missoula built over 100 years ago by A. B. Hammond which was a real part of the city’s history. The historic Nixon Bridge at Manhattan is threatened with destruction. And the Antiquities Act of 1906 is under attack by those who don’t believe in preservation. So what should we do and how can we help to preserve the ghost towns? As I have traveled the state, I have mentioned to many people about MGTPS and found many are interested in ghost towns and preservation.....but have never heard of us. I would suggest telling people about us and the need for preservation. This may be at a museum, cafe, church or where ever you meet people. And don’t forget the younger generations as we need to change the dominate hair color at our conventions.

These are just some of my suggestions. Your ideas would be appreciated with respect to structures or towns that need protection and preservation or other ideas to increase interest and membership. For once its gone, its gone forever

BRAD

AS I SEE IT

from the Ramrod’s chair

In this newsletter, you will find an article from Richard Lee on the gunfighter Jack Slade, who was hanged by the vigilantes of Virginia City for being ‘drunk and disorderly’ one too many times! Hopefully, we can persuade Dick to write more articles about Virginia City, as he used to edit the Virginia City Association newsletter. Also included is an article by Crystal Alegria, telling us about a new educational program combining archaeology, history and preservation of Garnet ghost town. Finally, my contribution this issue is a little off the track of ghost town history in that I delve into the little known Indian / U.S. army battle of 1881 at Poplar River on what is now the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. I had a difficult time getting to the location, finally got permission from a rancher to cross his property on a cattle trail to the site.

Terry

New Members

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

Bill Sosnowski, Fairfax Station, VA

Joseph Vandeburg, Glenwood, MN

John & Eleanor Mest, Manhattan, MT

John & Renee Loehr, Ronan, MT

Char Small, Lewistown, MT

Karen McCarthy, Bozeman, MT

Bonnie Hammer, Manhattan, MT

M.G.T.P.S. BOARD MEETING
November 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM by President Brad O’Grosky, other board members attending were: Terry Halden, Sally Griffin, Don Black, Cindy Shearer, and Connie Griffin. Guest attendees were Margie Kankrlik and Marilyn Murdoch.

Brad asked that the minutes from the Annual General Meeting, which was on September 9th, 2017, be approved as published in the Fall 2017 newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to approve them. The motion was passed.

Connie read the Treasurer’s Report. From the start of the fiscal year July 1, 2017, to November 17, 2017, we had an Income of \$3,875.00 and Expenses of \$4,631.59, for a Net Income loss of \$756.59. The Cash Balances are Petty Cash - \$ 60.20; Checking Account- \$3520.01; and Savings-\$13,414.19.

Sally reported that about 20 members who have not paid their 2016 and 2017 dues have been dropped from the roles. We currently have slightly over 200 members.

Darian Halden is currently reconstructing our website. If M.G.T.P.S. members have posts for our facebook page, please email Darian.

Please email Terry with articles for the Newsletter.

Old Business:

We are happy to welcome Don Black back to the Board. He has many new ideas for M.G.T.P.S.

The 2017 Bozeman Convention stayed very close to the budget. The speakers were entertaining and knowledgeable. Thank you, Margie Kankrlik and Marilyn Murdock for a fantastic convention. They mentioned that it is very difficult to have the Annual Convention at the current amount per attendee.

Darian Halden is continuing her work on the 2018 Convention that will be held in Sidney, MT.

Don Black moved to confirm the nomination and election of officers that was proposed in emails

among the Board Members. Terry Halden 2nd the motion. The motion passed.

The motion to grant \$1000.00 to The Rotary Club of Manhattan for the preservation of the Nixon Bridge, contingent on the Gallatin County Commission not demolishing the Nixon Bridge, was tabled until the next meeting.

New Business:

Cindy Shearer reported that the Montana Historical Society Convention in 2017 was well organized and a great convention.

The board decided that more information is needed for further discussion of D&O Insurance.

Don Black moved that we donate \$1000.00 to the Gallatin County Historical Society for their Fort Ellis display. Sally 2nd the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Griffin

Secretary/Treasurer

OBITUARY

BYRON McALLISTER

April 29, 1929 ~ December 09, 2017

Byron was a scholar, mathematician, published poet, dutiful son, gardener, Korean War veteran, brother, educator, husband for 60 years, history buff, professor emeritus, father of three, published author of three mysteries and a book of short stories, community volunteer, amateur linguist, mentor, painter of pictures, grandfather, musician, roofer, and mushroom hunter.

Byron was intellectually curious, witty, dapper, persistent, fair, honest, kind, thoughtful, patient, generous, gentle, naïve, and, in his own words, a little bit lazy. He was also our Vice President when Sue Howe was our leader.

Byron said that the only funeral he wanted was one he could attend. We will miss him.

JACK SLADE, MASTER GUN SLINGER

by RICHARD LEE

Slade was a native of Carlyle, Illinois, born on January 22, 1831. It was rumored that he killed a man with a stone when he was 13 years old. He then had to flee a persistent deputy who chased him unsuccessfully. This led him to Texas where he took part in the Mexican-American War. He received recognition for his bravery and left with the rank of Captain, by which he was known later in his career. It is difficult to separate the facts of Slade's life from the fiction. Much of the myth of his colorful life was spread by Slade himself, which helped make people afraid of him and even procured him several jobs.

He then moved to Colorado where he met Jules Reni, founder of Julesburg. No doubt, because of his reputation as a skilled gunfighter and killer, he was selected to replace Jules as division agent of the Overland Stage Line which was later replaced by the Union Pacific Railroad. He was to "clean up" the Line which was bothered by here-to-for uncontrolled outlaws and Indians. Many rumors abound which include Jules shooting Slade with a shotgun. Slade had 13 pellet shots in his body. Jules thought he was dead and said he should be buried in a dry goods box at which time Slade said he would live long enough to kill Jules and wear one of his ears on his watch guard, and that is what happened. As division agent of the Overland his headquarters were at Julesburg and later at Virginia Dale, now in Colorado. Mark Twain in his book, "Roughing It", claimed that Slade had twenty-six kills. Twain said he met him at a stage stop and after eating his meal, he was afraid to either accept or decline a cup of coffee for fear of becoming his twenty-seventh kill!

Available women were scarce in the West. Most were prostitutes or were married. San Francisco at one time was said to have over 2000 prostitutes. Miners sometimes abandoned their mining claims and cabins in search of a wife. One nailed a note to the door saying, "Found my gold, went looking for a wife." Slade ran many wagon trains through various parts of the west, often leading to San Francisco, especially during the gold rush of

1849. On one of those trips, he met his match in a Hurdy Gurdy house. She reportedly had a stately figure and black eyes and was as strong and deadly as her new husband, Jack Slade. Her married name was Maria Virginia Slade.



The only known likeness of Jack Slade.

Courtesy Author

When gold was discovered in Virginia City, Montana, Slade and his family moved to 160 acres of rocky, worthless ground. There he and several helpers used hand tools and horse-drawn graders to make a wagon trail which bypassed some of the roughest part of the Bozeman Trail. Because roads were so scarce in Montana Territory, it was legal for him to call this a toll road. He also made his home into a stage stop.

It proved easier to make money in Virginia City than to take it out. Many successful miners were robbed, killed, or both trying to leave Bannack or Alder Gulch (Virginia City). Some people blamed Henry Plummer, who was sheriff in Bannack and by default, Virginia City. Some blamed three of his deputies, some blamed other outlaws, and some thought Slade was involved. It is a matter of contention and much debate, even today.



At this time in his life, Slade developed quite a reputation as a drunk. He would shoot up a store or saloon, forcing the patrons to leave the premises. The next day, he would make good for the damages he caused. After several drunken sprees in Virginia City, including cutting off a mule's ear on a bet, he was again called in front of a Miners' (Vigilante) Court March 10, 1864. The decision, based on the third time in court, was that he was incorrigible, not likely to change his ways and should be hanged. Some of his friends pleaded that he had committed no serious crimes in Virginia City, but James Williams, head of the Vigilantes, would not change his mind. The other miners in town agreed with Williams. They were afraid if he were merely banished from town, he would return and kill a lot of them.

He was taken to the Elephant Corral where he begged to have time to say goodbye to his wife. The scores of miners knew her strength, both on a horse and with a gun and feared her arrival. She had been sent for and could be seen entering town. The miners shouted for him to be hanged so James Williams ordered the men with the rope to do their duty. One of them kicked over the box on which Slade was standing and he quickly died.

ABOVE:
Virginia City, Ca 1866.

SUTTERLYBROS Photo

Mrs. Slade didn't want to bury him in Virginia City. She wanted to take his body to Illinois where he could be buried next to his relatives. She bought a tin coffin and filled it with liquor and then Jack's body. That is how he spent the winter. She never got the body to Illinois. He was buried in Salt Lake City in an unmarked grave.

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Investigating Garnet Ghost Town

A Curriculum Guide for Students

By CRYSTAL ALEGRIA

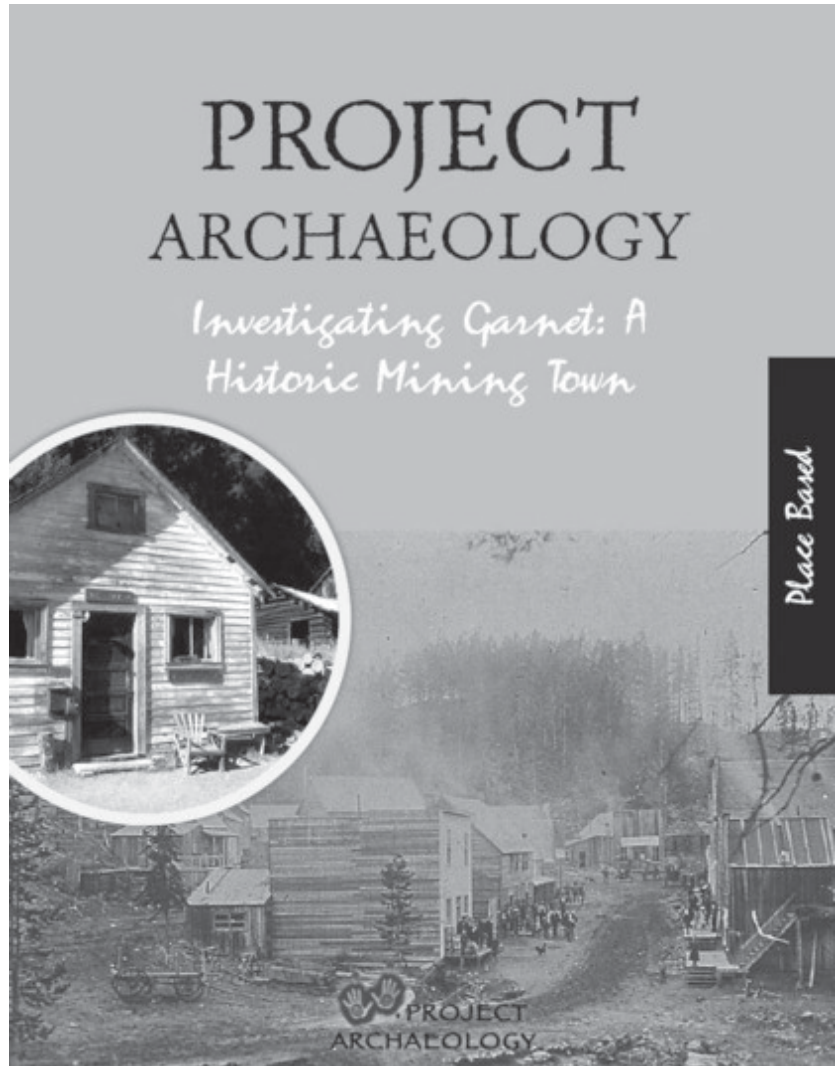
We are excited to announce the publication of a new curriculum for Montana students called, *Project Archaeology: Investigating Garnet, A Historic Mining Town*. This curriculum is important because it gives educators a ready-made curriculum to bring into their classroom to teach about one of our most intact historic ghost towns.

Garnet is a famous Montana ghost town that is located thirty-eight miles from Missoula, MT in the Garnet Mountain Range and is one of Montana's most beloved ghost towns. Garnet is a prime example of the many boom and bust mining communities that popped up in Montana during the late 19th century and then went bust in the early 20th. Many of these towns have left no trace but Garnet survives in a remarkable state of completeness thanks to the many dedicated volunteers and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Today Garnet boasts two dozen standing buildings and has a visitor center that is open Memorial Day through September. The Garnet Preservation Association, Inc. that works in partnership with the BLM to stabilize and preserve the buildings and educate the public on the history of the town and mining in Montana, and promote

public awareness of the Garnet Historic District. Each year 22,000 visitors pass through Garnet including school groups from surrounding towns. Because Garnet is accessible and welcoming to school groups, the BLM worked with Project Archaeology to develop a curricula educators can use when taking students out to visit this historically significant place. Hence, the *Investigating Garnet* guide was born.

Project Archaeology is a national heritage education program that is dedicated to teaching scientific and historical inquiry, cultural understanding, and the importance of protecting our nation's rich cultural resources. The program is based out of Montana State University's (MSU) Department of Sociology and Anthropology and is a partnership between Montana State University and the Bureau of Land Management. www.projectarchaeology.org.

Investigating Garnet is a part of a place-based series that includes *Project Archaeology: Investigating Fort Meade* and *Changing Land, Changing Life: Archaeology in the Apsáalooke Homeland*.





Garnet. Ca 1910.

Photograph Courtesy Bureau of Land Management

Investigating Garnet provides students with an opportunity to better understand Montana's mining history through the lens of Garnet. Much like Project Archaeology's other place-based guides, *Investigating Garnet* includes in-classroom and on-site lessons that use primary documents such as census records, historic photographs and oral history to tell the story of Garnet. If they take a fieldtrip to Garnet, they bring this information with them to experience history on the ground in the place where it happened. The last lesson in the guide, called the Final Performance of Understanding, reinforces the importance of preserving historic places and re-adapting or re-using them to fit our current needs. The curriculum is correlated to Montana Common Core State Standards and the Essential Understanding of Montana's Indian Education for All.

When developing this curriculum we piloted it with two groups of educators in 2015 and 2016. Each group attended a one-day workshop at Garnet, experiencing the curricula and learning about the long history of this place. There is currently no "classroom" space in the town of Garnet so the teachers had the unique experience of taking the workshop in Kelly's Saloon, one of Garnet's historic structures (pictured below). Teachers were also introduced to the curriculum at the 2015 and 2017 Montana Educators Association (MEA-MFT) annual meeting. Terri Wolfram, a retired BLM archaeologist, consulted on the *Investigating Garnet* curriculum project and taught the MEA session in 2015.

This curriculum and the workshop would never have happened without BLM employee, Maria Craig. She spearheaded the project, and helped coordinate the educator workshops in Garnet. If you are interested in using *Investigating Garnet* in a classroom or informal setting, please visit Project Archaeology's website (www.projectarchaeology.org) where you can purchase it online. If you have never visited Garnet, it is open year-round, daily from 9:30-4:30pm, but access in the winter is restricted to snowmobile and cross-country skis.

Educators in front of Kelly's Saloon building in 2016



The 'BATTLE' at POPLAR RIVER

By TERRY HALDEN

After the combined forces of the Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho had defeated Custer and most of the Seventh Cavalry, on the Little Big Horn River in southwestern Montana on June 25 1876 a besieged Reno and his remnants of the Seventh, the following day, watched the break-up of the Indian camp, and the victors move south. The Indians had learned that General Terry and a large force of troops were coming from the north, and besides, the logistics of a large encampment, food and sanitation, demanded they move and split up. Some filtered back to their Agencies, and became 'Good Indians' as the government referred to them. Some, such as Crazy Horse, He Dog, Iron Crow and their Oglala followers finally surrendered on May 5, 1877 and joined the reservation created for them in, what became, South Dakota. The Hunkpapa division of the Sioux, under Sitting Bull and Gall fled to the Cypress Hills, of southwestern Saskatchewan, Canada where they were allowed to stay by Inspector Walsh of the North West Mounted Police, "provided they not make war with their traditional enemies, the native Cree Indians".



Inspector James Walsh, of the Canadian North-West Mounted Police, who befriended Sitting Bull and Gall during their exile north of the Medicine Line.
GLENBOW ARCHIVES, PHOTO

Meantime, the U.S. government hastened to rectify a problem they had been ignoring for a long time, and that was building army forts in Montana territory. It started in 1876, shortly after Custer's wipe-out with Fort Keogh being built near present day Miles City. It was named after a captain who was killed alongside Custer. It was followed in April 1877 by the building of a fort at the confluence of the Little Big Horn and Big Horn Rivers that was originally named Post #2, but shortly thereafter renamed Fort Custer. Fort Missoula followed, later that same year. After that, Fort Assiniboine, near present day Havre came along in 1879, to be followed the next year by Fort Maginnis near the now ghost town of Gilt Edge.

The Fort Peck Indian Reserve was established in 1871 to serve the peaceful Assiniboine and Yankton Sioux Indians. The old trading post of Durfee and Peck, located at the confluence of the Poplar and Missouri was purchased by the government and the stockade was used by the Indian agent. However because of the annual threat and sometimes actual, spring flood the Poplar River Agency was moved a half mile north in 1878 to where today the little town of Poplar exists and where all the tribal officers of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation are located.

According to the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for 1880, besides the agent's home there was a building for an employee, a warehouse, a carpenter's house, a blacksmith's shop, a root cellar, a cattle-scales house, a slaughter house and a schoolhouse. The Post Traders were Leighton and Jordon whilst Charles Aurbury was erecting a second trading building nearby. The Indians in the agent's care were various Assiniboine tribes, Yankton Sioux, with some Santee and Teton Sioux, who numbered over 4,000, and had not joined the hostiles in the war of 1876

On their way to Canada, Sitting Bull's Hunkpapa Sioux stopped in the area and tried to get needed supplies from the Poplar River Agency and some even stayed and intermarried with their cousins the Yankton Sioux. Other groups of Sioux fled and joined Sitting Bull along with some Nez Perce in 1877 that had escaped Chief Joseph's surrender at Bear Paw Mountains near present day Havre (which resulted in the building of Fort Assiniboine). This overcrowding, north of the 'Medicine Line' created a shortage of bison along with a rising animosity of the Cree and as a result one by one, family by family and finally small group by group moved back down south and infiltrated the Sioux on the Fort Peck Reserve, vastly increasing the numbers of Indians that were applying for rations. The agent became alarmed, left his post in 1880 and fled to Fort Buford.

The government ordered two companies of the 11th U.S. infantry under Captain Ogden B. Reed from Fort Custer to the Poplar River and they arrived that summer and started building a small army post that became known as Cantonment Poplar River. They had no sooner got things under control, when Gall and his followers, Spotted Eagle and his Sans Arc Sioux along with Sitting Bull's favorite daughter came and set up camp south of Poplar where the old agency had been located, adding over sixty lodges and innumerable fighting men, all armed with rifles. The situation was becoming volatile. Captain Reed called for help.



The Poplar River Agency Ca1880
PHOTO from the Internet

Major Guido N. Ilges, 5 officers, 150 men and 32 Indian scouts of the 5th Infantry were dispatched from Fort Keogh to augment Captain Reed's men. Riding mules they made the 200 mile journey in five days, arriving in early December. A supply train, escorted by cavalry from the same fort arrived in time for Christmas.



ABOVE: Fort Keogh, 1880.
Photo from the Internet.
RIGHT: Gall, Hunkpapa chief.
Photo was taken in Fort Buford 1881, after Gall's surrender, by David F. Barry



At the point where the Polar River enters the Missouri (above) it runs west to east, and the Missouri runs from the south to the north. Gall and his followers were camped in the foreground. Igles and his troops were across the Missouri, which, at the time was frozen.

Seeing the army arriving across the Missouri from his camp, Gall asked for a meeting with the soldier chief.

Believing he was negotiating from a position of strength, Gall had about 500 armed men at his command, along with the rumor that Sitting Bull and the rest of the Hunkpapas had returned south and were nearby, as opposed to Major Igles combined force of about 300, he demanded that he be left on the Fort Peck Reserve, allowed to keep his rifles and horses for hunting, be supplied with rations, like the other reservation Sioux, and he, in return, would agree to live in peace. Major Igles had no instruction to negotiate any peace term, other than the complete disarmament of the Hunkpapas and the moving of them to Fort Buford for complete surrender.

All photos on this page
and page 11,
AUTHOR, 2017

What Gall had overlooked in the brief talk was unlike Custer, Igles was armed with three Howitzer cannons and returning to his command, he opened up and lopped a few shells across the river into the Indian camp. The terrified Indians fled into the woods, so Igles readjusted his range and fired a few more shells into the wooded area. With eight Indians dead, Gall offered to surrender, unconditionally. Marching across the frozen Missouri Igles and his troops confiscated all the guns and ponies and within days he had arranged for wagon transportation for the women, children and aged, whilst the men were forced to march to Fort Buford under escort. In spring they were sent down river by steamer to life on the reserve in South Dakota. Of the Indian pony herd, the best were taken by the troops and the rest were auctioned off to help pay for expenses. Now all that remained was Sitting Bull and the remainder of the Hunkpapas.



The trees to the north of where Gall was camped. This is where he and his followers fled to when Ingles started shelling the camp



However, in wintertime, the trees didn't offer very much protection from Ingles' howitzers, once he readjusted his aim.

Inspector Walsh, according to his superiors was getting too friendly with the 'American Indians' and was transferred, being replaced by Inspector Crozier, who had instructions to remain on good terms with the interlopers, but to get rid of them. He was aided by the fact that with the wholesale slaughter of the northern bison herds which had resulted in most of Sitting Bull's followers moving south for 'the comforts and supplies' of reservation life. In late December, with another hard winter facing his tribe, he finally led them back across the 'Medicine Line' and was rumored to be camped near the confluence of the Milk River and the Missouri, west of Polar, where he was hunting the few bison still roaming there.

Ingles telegraphed Fort Assinibione with the request that they send a force east and try to capture Sitting Bull between the two forces. Ingles also sent out one of his scouts, Edwin H. Allison, who was married to a Hunkpapa woman and had several children with her, to try to talk Sitting Bull into a peaceful surrender. The Helena Weekly Herald, in its issue of February 24, 1881 described Allison as "*of medium height, with blue eyes, wavy chestnut hair, regular features and slightly stooped shoulders. As an interpreter there are few, if*

any, who equal Allison, and none of whom is his peer". However as Sitting Bull had heard the story of the shelling of Gall's camp, and had also been told the untrue story that his daughter was in irons in Fort Buford, he became jittery, and moved his camp around to confuse the army. He was going to surrender, then he wasn't, changing his mind frequently and it wasn't until July that he sent his nephew into Fort Buford with instructions to arrange a formal surrender. On July 21, 1881 Sitting Bull finally rode into Fort Buford on a scrawny pony. He was wearing a dirty tattered shirt, had a dirty ragged blanket around him and had a scarf on his head, covering one eye that was infected. He gave his rifle to his six year old son and told him to give it to Major Brotherton as a token of his surrender. Amazingly, he was treated by the civilian population as royalty for on his trip downriver, wherever the boat docked people thronged to see him. Someone had taught him to sign his name and for a quarter he would autograph anything the people wanted him to sign and he went on to join Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, even meeting Queen Victoria in England, but that's another story..

There, except for the infamous Wounded Knee episode nine years later, the Sioux war was over.

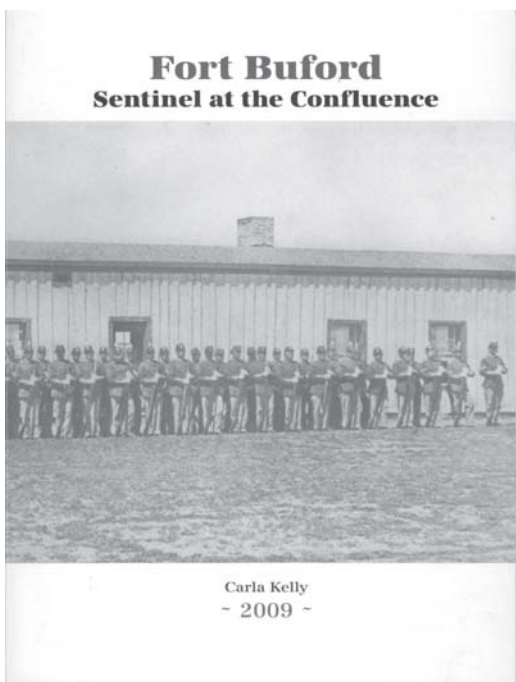


P.O. BOX 1861, BOZEMAN, MT, 59771-1861

REVIEW:

FORT BUFORD Sentinel at the Confluence

by **CARLA KELLY**



Built in 1866 at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers, Fort Buford, named after Major General John Buford, a former Inspector General, and noted hero of the Battle of Gettysburg, originally had a stockade around the buildings because of the incessant attacks by the Hunkpapa Indians, whose territory it was infringing on. Sitting Bull vowed, from its inception, that the intruding fort would be destroyed. Ironically, fifteen years later, it would be the fort that he finally surrendered in. Carla Kelly has written a comprehensive, year by year, detailed account of the history of the fort, often describing the mundane, day by day drudgery of the enlisted men's lot in the running of the fort. Fort Buford was never intended to be a military fort in the sense of a fighting base, but rather a supply base for the armies, in what was to become Montana and North Dakota. It could easily be supplied from sources down river and could supply troops in the field either up the Yellowstone (as it did during General Terry's campaign in 1876) or the Missouri. Hence, as the author points out, it was always manned by infantry companies and never cavalry. The book is a fascinating history of day to day life in the army of the period.

Terry Halden