



MONTANA
GHOST TOWN
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

preserving history for the next generation

VOLUME 47

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018



Calamity Jane, in
Livingston, MT 1896-98,
photographed by C.E.
FINN of Livingston.

M.H.S. PHOTO

(See story Page 4)

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.

SPRING 2018

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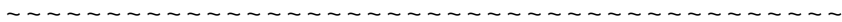
The Prez Sez

BRAD O'GROSKY

I hope this finds all of you well, surviving winter and having a wonderful year. I feel 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 MGTPS to people I meet 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 of grey 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 it's gone, it's gone forever.

Brad



AS I SEE IT

from the Ramrod's chair

The first thing I have to do is to apologize to President Brad. I don't know how many of our faithful readers noticed but in the Winter edition of the newsletter, I accidentally re-ran the same 'Prez Sez' that I ran in the previous Fall newsletter. I won't bore you with an explanation as to why – I just goofed and I'm sorry Brad.

In this edition is a terrific story about Calamity Jane (one of my favorite western characters) in Bozeman, written by Rachel Phillips and Ken Hamlin. Rachel, as you know from our last convention, is the Research Co-ordinator at the Gallatin Museum in Bozeman. Thanks is also due to Linda Dutcher for sending me two news clippings of interest and I've copied a story about dredging in Montana in the 1930s from the Mining Journal of the time.

On page 11 you will find the schedule for the upcoming convention in Sidney. Darian has done a super job of lining up a top notch program, interesting speakers, and places to visit, along with unbelievable low hotel rates. We urge you to take advantage of these hotel rates asap. The folks in Sidney are really looking forward to meeting you.

Terry

New Members

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

Ralph & Barbara Branson, Anaconda, MT

M.G.T.P.S. BOARD MEETING
MARCH 17, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by President Brad O’Grosky, other board members attending were: Sally Griffin, Cindy Shearer, Darian Halden, and Connie Griffin.

Connie read the Treasurer’s Report. From the start of the fiscal year July 1, 2017, to March 17, 2018, we had an Income of \$8,555.00 and Expenses of \$6491.41, for a Net Income of \$2,063.59. The Cash Balances are Petty Cash - \$60.20; Checking Account - \$6,440.19; and Savings - \$13,418.26.

Sally motioned that we accept the minutes from the November 18th board meeting as published and the Treasurer’s report. Cindy seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Connie reported that 51 members have not yet paid their dues. We currently have 217 members.

Brad said he would like to send a membership renewal form in the Fall or Winter Newsletter. Sally motioned it and Connie 2nd, the motion passed.

Darian is continuing to work on the MGTPS website. Cindy has some ideas for posts on Facebook.

Darian is looking into various options to have the MGTPS website running.

There are no new projects at this time.

It was discussed that we have a project application form and put it in Facebook. Brad is looking into the proper form.

OLD BUSINESS

Darian has given the time line for the 2018 Convention in Sidney Montana to Terry. It will be in the Spring newsletter.(See page 11)

Sally moved that we donate \$1000.00 toward the preservation of the Nixon Bridge – whether all or a part of it – in such a way that if the project falls through, our money will be returned. Darian seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Phillipsburg and Red Lodge were discussed at potential sites for the 2019 Convention.

D & O insurance was tabled until all board members are able to attend a board meeting to discuss it.

OTHER BUSINESS

MGTPS donation to the Gallatin Historical Society at work.Cindy and Kelly Hartman gave a demonstration of the interactive display for the Fort Ellis exhibit at the Gallatin Historical Society. Kelly did a great job. It is easy to use and holds a lot of information about Fort Ellis and the people involved with the fort.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Connie Griffin

Secretary/Treasurer



According to the Harlem Enterprise of September 16, 1908 the 'Snake Oil' salesman had given up selling his wares from the back of a wagon and had taken to advertising in local papers

Thousands of American women in our homes are daily sacrificing their lives to duty.

In order to keep the home neat and pretty, the children well dressed and tidy, women overdo. A female weakness or displacement is often brought on and they suffer in silence, drifting along from bad to worse, knowing well that they ought to have help to overcome the pains and aches which daily make life a burden.

It is to these faithful women that

**LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S
VEGETABLE COMPOUND**

For thirty years Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from roots and herbs, has been the standard remedy for female ills, and has positively cured thousands of women who have been troubled with displacements, inflammation, ulceration, fibroid tumors, irregularities, periodic pains, backache, that bearing-down feeling, flatulency, indigestion, dizziness, or nervous prostration. Why don't you try it?

Calamity Jane “Dries Out” in Bozeman

By Rachel Phillips & Ken Hamlin

Livingston News - “Calamity Jane is in town again. She entered a certain newspaper office in this city this morning and wanted to know where the dirty cur was who said she was in the poor house. She wanted it clearly understood that she was never in a poor house in her life and she would cut any low-livered son of brute into shoe strings who said she was ever dependent on charity for a living.”¹ – Butte Daily Inter Mountain, February 28, 1901.

Most people who are familiar with Calamity Jane will recognize the above quote as consistent with her tough, fighting image. However, the “poor house” incident Calamity refers to piques one’s curiosity. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, “poor houses” or “poor farms” referred to places that could care for those who could not care for themselves. Often, poor farm residents were experiencing financial difficulties, but some were ill, orphaned, or had no other place to go, and their stay was temporary.

What happened to Calamity, and where? It is clear from the article that Calamity Jane adamantly denied ever accepting charity from a “poor house,” but what was the full story?



‘Calamity’ Jane’,
Deadwood, S.K. 1877.
Photographer U/K
courtesy M.H.S.

Few details of Calamity Jane’s early life are known. She was born Martha Canary (or Cannary) in the mid-1800s in Missouri. When Martha was young, she and her family moved west to Montana Territory, where she was soon left to fend for herself. She likely picked up the nickname “Calamity Jane” prior to her residence in the Black Hills during the gold rush in the 1870s. Long before the mysterious 1901 poor house episode described above, Calamity Jane’s exploits and adventures throughout the West had elevated her to celebrity status. Her name and reputation were well-known in Wyoming, Colorado, North and South Dakota, and Montana.² However, she did not necessarily always endear herself to the local authorities, and Calamity Jane’s heavy drinking often got her into trouble.

During the winter of 1901, Calamity Jane was roaming Montana, searching for work. On January 8, *The Billings Gazette* reported that, “*according to the Yellowstone Journal*,” she was in Miles City, attempting to find a job as a cook. The article also mentioned (or perhaps warned) that if unsuccessful in her attempts to secure employment in Miles City, Calamity Jane next planned stops in Forsyth and Billings.³

It appears she was unsuccessful at her job-hunt in Miles City. In late January, Calamity, also known as Jane Dorsett⁴, was involved in a dispute with a Billings hotel and restaurant proprietor named Yee Sam Lee. Calamity claimed that Lee refused to return her trunk, which held several hundred dollars’ worth of clothing and bedding. *The Billings Gazette* reported: “Lee replies that Mrs. Dorsett owes him a bill for room rent and that she left the trunk for security. The trunk is said to contain [sic] only three dresses that would not bring very much at even a secondhand store.”⁵ One wonders why Mr. Lee bothered to keep Calamity Jane’s trunk if the contents were indeed so invaluable. This report suggests, along with the other newspaper accounts of her job-hunting, that Calamity was likely having some financial difficulties.

Despite her apparent lack of funds, Calamity Jane still managed to make headlines in every town she stopped. She surfaced in print again on Saturday, February 16. According to the article in Bozeman's Avant Courier newspaper, Calamity Jane had been traveling by train from Livingston to White Sulphur Springs on the previous Friday (February 8), when she became suddenly ill.⁶ The article explained: "*The authorities were notified by Agent Hoyt, and [he] met her at the depot. She was out of funds and consequently taken to the Poor Farm, where, under the treatment of county physician Safley and careful nursing of Mr. Holmes, she was discharged on Monday and went on her way rejoicing.*"⁷



In 1897 or 1898, whilst in Gilt Edge, Calamity ran into an old friend, Teddy 'Blue' Abbott. Here they are sharing a drink - after exchanging hats! M.H.S. photo

Other newspapers note that Calamity Jane was taken to the poor farm in Gallatin County, rather than to one in Park County. This claim is further supported by the Bozeman individuals—Hoyt, Safely, and Homes—who are mentioned in the Avant Courier article. According to Bozeman's 1900-1901 Polk City Directory, Merrill L. Hoyt, or "Agent Hoyt" was a station agent for the Northern Pacific Railway. He lived on North Church Avenue in Bozeman, not far from the railroad depot on North Wallace Avenue. Dr. William Safley operated a medical practice on Main Street in Bozeman, and resided at 401 South Grand. Charles Holmes, a Swedish immigrant, served as the Supervisor at the Gallatin County Poor Farm for twenty years until he passed away in 1905.⁸

After her weekend in the Gallatin County Poor Farm, Calamity Jane was released to continue her journeying. Given her notoriety, it is not surprising that reports of Calamity's misfortune spread across Montana: "*'Calamity Jane' or Mrs. Dorset [sic]...has again been heard from at Bozeman where she was taken sick and had to accept the aid of the county. Calamity seemed to be entirely without friends though after accepting the hospitality of the county until her health was restored she departed eastward.*"⁹ — Fergus County Argus, February 27, 1901.

Even a month after she left the Poor Farm, news of her misfortune was reported as far away as Dupuyer, Montana (northwest of Great Falls): "*Calamity Jane, a noted character of Western border life, a friend of Buffalo Bill and a participant in many of the early Indian campaigns, has been admit [sic] to the poorhouse in Gallatin county.*"¹⁰—The Dupuyer Acantha, March 14, 1901.

Calamity Jane was not pleased with the press. As she traveled from town to town, she harassed newspapermen, denying that she was ever in the Poor Farm and seeking vengeance for her wounded pride. Fergus County Argus reporters sympathized with their Park County newspaper colleagues on March 6, when they related an unfortunate encounter that occurred in the Livingston newspaper office. "*Calamity Jane struck town on the war trail and demanded to know the author of the article describing her as an inmate of the Bozeman poor house. Calamity expressed an aching desire to 'shoot the dirty cur' who started the report.... The boss liar was called to the front and after exercising considerable ingenuity Calamity was persuaded that the report did not originate in Livingston and was induced to leave without killing an editor or reducing the office to a shouldering mass of ruins.*"¹¹

On March 22, the Butte Daily Inter Mountain quoted Billings reporters when they lamented: "*She [Calamity Jane] has been receiving considerable notoriety of late, owing to the report that she was in the poorhouse of Bozeman.*" The Sunday issue of the Denver Post contained quite a sketch of her, together with her picture, and large headlines announcing that "*she was now in the poorhouse. 'Calamity' has been making life a burden for those people who announced*



After making peace with Livingston writer Lewis Freeman, she agreed to be interviewed by him. In May 1901 he visited her in the morning and was invited to join her for breakfast. Here she is cooking the meal, smoking a cigar. Lewis Freeman photo

that she was a county charge."¹² Even the Dillon Tribune picked up on her wrath, reporting in an article titled, "*She's No Pauper, She resents the newspaper stories about her being the inmate of a poor house and is making life miserable for the scribes.*"¹³ Bozeman's Avant Courier newspaper printed the story on February 16 (the weekend after the event occurred), but Livingston reporters seemed to get the brunt of Calamity's wrath. The Billings Gazette believed a Livingston newspaperman was responsible for starting the firestorm. "*The space writer in Livingston, who started the report of her being a county charge, narrowly missed annihilation and the bombardment he received from the tongue of 'Calamity' made him feel smaller than 30 cents.*"¹⁴

The publicity did spark at least one of Calamity Jane's friends to step to her aid. Dr. David Franklin "White Beaver" Powell, friend of Buffalo Bill Cody, heard rumors at his home in Minnesota that Calamity was in trouble financially and living at the poor house in Silver Bow County.¹⁵ Concerned, Dr. Powell wrote a letter to the poor farm in Butte, inquiring as to Calamity's circumstances, and offering to provide help. He wrote: "There are many of us old-timers of peak and plain who will gladly join in making her life more comfortable if she is really in dire want. No matter what the 'hollier [sic] than thou' set may think, she and such as she made it possible for civilization to take hold and fasten itself...and

now that she is helpless the cloak of charity should be thrown over the unfortunate part of her life. While I have not communicated with her foster brother and lifelong companion, Colonel Cody, I know positively that he will join in adding his contribution to her comfort, and there are many others who will do the same."¹⁶

A week later, the Butte Daily Inter Mountain printed an update from Billings, which claimed that Calamity Jane had received sixty-five dollars from Dr. Powell.¹⁷ Sixty-five dollars in 1901 converts to roughly one-thousand, eight-hundred dollars in today's currency—a considerable

sum. It is difficult to verify whether she in fact received this money, or if she was gifted any additional funds from friends like Buffalo Bill Cody.



After July 4, 1901, Josephine Blake, a wealthy philanthropist in New York city, took an interest in Calamity, and came out to bring Calamity back to the city, to live the life of luxury. The trip lasted as far as Buffalo, where Calamity 'jumped ship'. A newspaper described the relationship as 'a tenderfoot on a rank outlaw unbroken horse'. Here is Calamity at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y. 1901

Photo: James D. McLaird collection

Calamity Jane only lived a couple more years after her weekend experience at the Gallatin County Poor Farm. She died on August 1, 1903, in Terry, South Dakota. The cause of death was bowel inflammation (likely brought on by alcoholism) and she was buried a few days later in Deadwood, South Dakota. In researching Calamity Jane's life, it is difficult to separate truth from myth. Like all people, she had her faults and her merits. As Roberta Beed Sollid writes in her biography of Calamity Jane, "She became a symbol of the nostalgia of an exclusive group who shared the knowledge of the special circumstances of boomtown barbarity and wide-open generosity."¹⁸

As for that "certain newspaper office" in Livingston (see article introduction) that received the unexpected visit from Calamity Jane in late February, 1901—it survived to print another day. ".....*She nearly scared the 'prints' out of a year's growth by her wild and ferocious antics, and it required a nice, artistic job of lying to convince her that she was in the wrong place. She wandered out after a time, still vowing the direst kind of vengeance upon the man who wrote the article which said she was in the Gallatin county poor house. She left today for Bozeman.*"¹⁹

Rachel Phillips is the Research Coordinator at the Gallatin History Museum in Bozeman. Ken Hamlin is a former Gallatin Historical Society Board member with a long-time interest in all aspects of Montana History.

SOURCES

¹ "Livingston News," *Butte Daily Inter Mountain*, Butte, Montana. February 28, 1901. Page 7.

² Roberta Beed Sollid, *Calamity Jane* (The Western Press, Historical Society of Montana, 1958), 1-2.

³ *The Billings Gazette*, Billings, Montana. January 8, 1901. Page 5.

⁴ Calamity Jane appears to be connected in some fashion with a Livingston man named Robert Dorsett in the 1880s. It is unclear whether or not the pair were married, but she was known by that name. Roberta Beed Sollid, *Calamity Jane* (The Western Press, Historical Society of Montana, 1958), 47-49.

⁵ *The Billings Gazette*, Billings, Montana. January 29, 1901. Page 5.

surmise that the affliction was related to alcohol consumption. "Additional Local," *The Avant Courier*, Bozeman, Montana. February 16, 1901.

⁸ "Charles Holmes Dead," *Republican Courier*, Bozeman, Montana. September 12, 1905. Page 1.

⁹ *Fergus County Argus*, Lewistown, Montana. February 27, 1901. Page 3.

¹⁰ *The Dupuyer Acantha*, Dupuyer, Montana. March 14, 1901.

¹¹ *Fergus County Argus*, Lewistown, Montana. March 6, 1901, Page 3.

¹² "Billings News," *Butte Daily Inter Mountain*, Butte, Montana. March 22, 1901. Page 5.

¹³ *The Dillon Tribune*, Dillon, Montana. March 29, 1901. Page 2.

¹⁴ *The Billings Gazette*, Billings, Montana. March 19, 1901. Page 6

¹⁵ The rumors erroneously suggested Calamity Jane was staying at a poor house in Silver Bow County rather than one in Gallatin County. *Butte Daily Inter Mountain*, Butte, Montana. March 15, 1901. Page 8.

¹⁶ *Butte Daily Inter Mountain*, Butte, Montana. March 15, 1901. Page 8.

¹⁷ "Billings News," *Butte Daily Inter Mountain*, Butte, Montana. March 22, 1901. Page 5.

¹⁸ Roberta Beed Sollid, *Calamity Jane* (The Western Press, Historical Society of Montana, 1958), 118.

¹⁹ "Livingston News," *Butte Daily Inter Mountain*, Butte, Montana. February 28, 1901. Page 7.



Returning from Buffalo, she stopped off to visit friends in Pierre, S. D. where she spent the winter 1901/1902

Photographed in her eastern finery by

R.L.Kelly

EDITOR'S NOTE: Starting at about the turn of the 19th/20th century, dredge mining of old placer mining ground got underway. This entailed the cutting through top soil to bed rock where gold was found and then advancing, churning up the entire overburden, washing it and locating the elusive gold. The dredge method of mining got into full swing in the first quarter of the century, as this report from the MINING JOURNAL, December 29, 1936 relates:

GOLD DREDGING OPERATIONS NEAR HELENA

By M. GREENFIELD

Although handicapped to some extent during the past season by insufficient water, gold dredging in the region around Helena, Montana, has proved very successful; the various mining companies generally declining to state just how successful. However, a few representative and interesting operations of the district are worthy of a brief description.

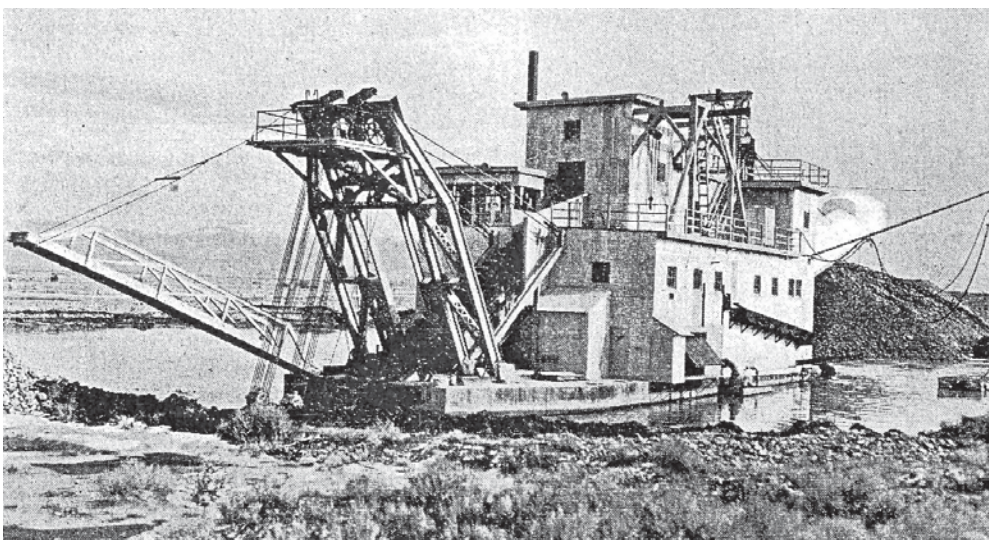
The Porter Brothers Corporation, R. P. Porter of Helena, president, has been operating since October, 1935, in Last Chance Gulch on the outskirts of Helena. A new six-foot Yuba dredge is in use, operating at capacity, and about, 7,000 yards of gravel are washed daily. The depth to bedrock is stated to be about 30 feet with no large boulders. Indications point toward a 10 or 15-year run on the area now held by Porter Brothers. Water is obtained from a supply leased from the Northern Pacific Railway and is brought in by a 1½-mile ditch. A crew of 25 men is normally employed and operations are continuous, unless interrupted by extremely cold weather.

About 500 acres of ground at the head of Blue Cloud Gulch, 11 miles from Helena, are controlled by the Blue Cloud Placer Syndicate, Leo Heuter of Helena, manager. The Blue Cloud Company has finished testing 200 acres, with results stated to show values from grass roots to the bedrock, which lies from 20 to 60 feet from the surface. A dragline shovel is now in use, but other equipment will be substituted in the spring of 1937. Wells are being drilled above the workings to insure a sufficient water supply. It was lack of water which is said to have hindered the development of this region by old operators.

The Montana Gold Mines Company, headed by James K. Sloan of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, has been operating the Lincoln Gulch placers in the extreme western part of Lewis and Clark County, near Lincoln, during the past season and has now suspended operations for the winter. Two draglines, one of 2½ yard and one with one-yard capacity, were used. The dredge handled 60 yards an hour and operations were run on a 24-hour schedule. The 2½ yard dragline .

was used for stripping overburden in advance of gold saving operations. The one yard machine started work on May 15, 1936, and was first used in the digging of a half mile drainage ditch, which reached bedrock at the lower end of the 900-acre operation, and was then used to deliver pay material to the dredge.

The Zim Gold Mines Development Company, H. B. Sharpe, manager, is operating in Magpie Gulch, located about 20 miles north of Helena. Work here started in October, 1934, and is expected to be continued for at least two more years. The company has control



The Yuba dredge which is operated by Porter Brothers Corporation at the city limits of Helena, at the end of Last Chance Gulch. Work on the project was started in October 1935. PHOTO: MINING JOURNAL

of 20 acres and values are stated to be high. Drift mining, using high-powered pumps, is being carried on, the gravel being hoisted through shafts by electric hoists. A heavy flow of water retards operation and only about 20 yards of pay dirt are handled in the sluice boxes over a 24 hour period. A washing plant, trommels, and screens will be installed during the winter to increase production. Depth to bedrock is stated to be from 65 to 70 feet, with boulders running from six inches to two feet in diameter. Work is continuous throughout the winter.

Two large concerns are represented in Jefferson County. The Winston Bros. Company, constructors and engineers, with offices in Minnesota, completed dredging the ground on Upper Prickly Pear Creek during the past year. The lower portions of the same Creek were dredged during the two previous years by the company, which started operations in the fall of 1933. Overburden on the upper portions of the creek, where work was recently completed was about three or four feet deep, with occasional small boulders. All machinery was electrically operated, power furnished by the Montana Power Company. The company's plans for the coming year have not been announced. A. Strojjan, Jr., was in charge of the office in Helena and H. W. Bogie was directing field operations. L. S. Oakes is president of the organization.

During the summer the Humphreys Gold Corporation, A. E. Humphreys, of Denver, Colorado, president, carried on some work in Clancy Gulch, about 15 miles south of Helena, and it is understood that further work will be done there next season. The company's main operation in Montana, however, is being conducted outside of the Helena district, in Alder Gulch, Madison County, near Virginia City. Equipment is electrically powered, built to operate and move as a self-contained unit. The dredge is mounted on four caterpillar-type tracks, each track powered by individual motors of 20 horsepower each. About 27 men are employed.

There are many interesting operations in that portion of Powell County that comes within the Helena area. In Washington Gulch, near Finn, the Eldorado Gold Placer Mines Company has been working since 1933, with Percy F. Rogers of Finn as superintendent.

Gravels moved by two drag line shovels and a dry land dredge. About 300 yards of gold-bearing gravel are sluiced in eight hours and about 800 yards of overburden moved. This property covers six patented claims. The average number of men employ is thirteen.

Also in Powell County is the Pioneer Placer and Dredging Company, N. Cleaveland Goldcreek, manager. This company holds 4,000 acres, and employs about 30 men. Approximately 7,000 cubic yards are handled daily. The area is said to include the place where gold was first discovered by the Stewart brothers in the early sixties, causing a gold rush into Montana. The Lucky Tiger Combination Gold Mining Company and the Yuba Associated Engineers are said to be behind the Pioneer Company, which is fully equipped for large scale, continuous operation.

Operating on Ogden Mountain, the Kilburn-Rubens Mines, Inc., has leased about 50 - acres near Helmsville, Powell County. This company was organized in the fall of 1935 to work the Kilburn placers, formerly worked by the Kilburn Placer Mining Company. An overburden of about three yards is removed to obtain the pay gravel, said to average three feet in depth.

The creeks and gold-bearing gulches throughout the region are being heavily prospected, both by companies and by individuals. Methods vary from the elaborate and large scale plans of big corporations to the single pan of the placer miner who merely wants a bare living.



The remains of the dredge at Pioneer Creek, 2010.
PHOTO: TERRY HALDEN

LINDA DUTCHER, sent us these two clippings from the Billings Herald - THANKS Linda, Editor.

The Billings herald., June 29, 1882, Image 1

About The Billings herald. (Billings, Mont.) 1882-1885

Image provided by: Montana Historical Society; Helena, MT

Image: 1 of 4. Page All Pages

Expense of a Mining Patent.

To obtain a patent for a mining claim, the cost is about as follows, as figured up by those who have had experience in the matter. The advance fee for surveyor's work in the United States Surveyor-General's office on each and every claim is \$40. The fees of the deputy mineral surveyor may be averaged at \$100. Such would be the charge for surveying a single claim, or it may be reduced one-half where there are several to make in one locality. We believe such charges are made on a basis of \$20 per day. The fees of the register and the receiver of the local land office amount to \$10, the cost of advertising will average \$40, depending entirely upon the length of the description, which may be long or concise. The cost of posting notices on the mine, and the affidavits of witnesses, may be set down at \$20. In most cases an attorney will have to be employed, whose fees should not exceed \$100, for all clerical work. Then add the final government charge for the land, at \$5 per acre for a quartz claim. A claim of 1,500 x 600 feet contains a fraction over twenty-one acres, and consequently cost about \$107. Thus we have the sum of \$417 as a fair average estimate of the cost of securing a government patent and a perfect title to a full-sized quartz mine. — Ex.

The Billings herald., May 19, 1883, Image 1

About The Billings herald. (Billings, Mont.) 1882-1885

Image provided by: Montana Historical Society; Helena, MT

Image: 1 of 4. Page All Pages

A Prospector's Outfit.

Every prospector should carry with him some glass tubes, a small bottle of nitric acid, and a bottle of ammonia. The latter no man ought to be without in the mountains, where there are rattlesnakes, scorpions, tarantulas, etc., as it is the best medicine to wash the wounds inflicted by these animals. And these directions are useful: Take a piece of ore and pulverize the same; take an empty cartridge of a revolver; fill the same and throw that amount into a glass tube filled three-quarters full with nitric acid; then hold the tube over a cinder or candle until the same boils, when the sulphuret will form a black sediment in the bottom, the clay, lime, or other formation will be above that, and between both if any silver is in the same, it will show in a whitish layer; when the whole has been cooled, take a few drops of ammonia and if there is any copper in the ore, the copper will produce a blue fluid on the top of the glass tube; then take the whole and wash the same through a blotting paper, by which you will save the sulphurets if there be any.—Ex.

The Montana post., October 13, 1866, Image 1

About The Montana post. (Virginia City, Montana Territory [i.e. Mont.] 1864-1869

Image provided by: Montana Historical Society; Helena, MT

Image: 1 of 8. Page All Pages Issues All Issue

H. P. A. SMITH, formerly well known here as a shyster lawyer, who went to Montana several years ago, is still practicing at the bar of the courts, but more especially at the bars of saloons at Helena. He was once run out of Montana by the vigilantes, but went back again.—Col. Min. Reg.

And here is another interesting clipping from the Montana Post, reprinting a story from a Minnesota newspaper.

The vigilantes of Virginia City, instead of hanging a miscreant often bannished him from the city. Apparently this lawyer, merely went to Helena after being thrown out of Virginia City

MGTPS Convention September 7th- 9th 2018 Sidney, MT

(Subject to changes)

Host hotels **Wingate** and **Microtel**. They are sister hotels in an adjoining parking lot. Rooms have been blocked off at both hotels for \$44.00/night (single & double). Suites are also available at \$89.00/night. There will also be a shuttle service provided on the Saturday night for hotel guests only to and from the heritage center. When booking make sure to mention Montana Ghost Town Convention or MGTPS Convention.

Wingate - 1490 S Central Ave, Sidney MT 406-433-3100

*Wifi, Indoor Hot Tub, Fitness Center & continental breakfast

Microtel – 1500 S Central Ave, Sidney MT 406-482-9011

*Wifi, Indoor Pool, Fitness Center, Pet friendly (\$20 fee) & continental breakfast

**Guests can use the facilities at either hotel.

Schedule:

Friday 5-7pm – Registration at Mondak Heritage Center (120 3rd Ave SE Sidney MT)

Hors D'oeuvres & light supper

Self-guided tour of museum

7-8pm – 'The Ghost Town of Mondak' – guest speaker Arch Ellewin

Saturday 8:30am – Meet in hotel parking lot

9am – Bus departs for Fort Buford

9:30am noon– Fort Tour with special speakers/guides

Noon – Lunch (Boxed Lunch provided)

1-3pm – Tour of Fort Union, with special speakers / guides

3:30pm – Visit to the ghost town of Mondak and depart back to the hotel

5-6pm – Cocktails and Dinner at Mondak Heritage Center

7:30pm – Annual General Meeting

8pm – Entertainment

Sunday 9am – Meet in hotel parking lot and convoy to the ghost town of Enid

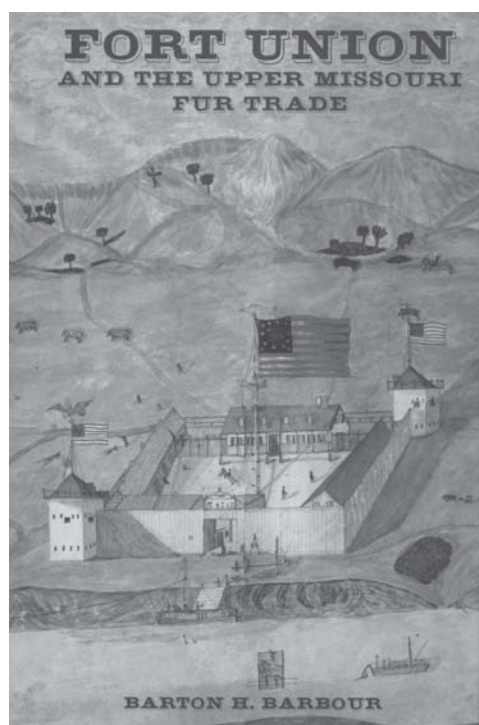


P.O. BOX 1861, BOZEMAN, MT, 59771-1861

REVIEW:

FORT UNION and the UPPER MISSOURI FUR TRADE

by BARTON H. BARBOUR



Built in 1830 at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers to counteract the growing influence of the Hudson Bay Company to the north, Fort Union was the brainchild of Kenneth McKenzie and Pierre Chouteau Jr. It operated successfully until Chouteau sold it in May 1865, following which the new owners ran it into the ground.

Barton H. Barbour, a historian and author with the National Park Service has meticulously researched and written the definitive history of the fort and the fur trading industry in the upper Missouri area. My only fault with his book is it is not written in chronological order. Instead, after a lengthy 36 page introduction, where he describes the early history of the fur industry in general and 'sets the stage' for the necessity of the fort, chapter one details the construction of the fort along with additions and alteration over its lifetime. Chapter two lists all the artists, scientists, explorers, & missionaries that spent time at the fort over the years as 'guests'. Additional chapters describe, in detail, everyday life at the fort, how Government Indian policy (which was constantly changing) affected the fort, major events and finally the fort's decline and subsequent rebuilding as a national shrine to the fur trading industry. This book, complete with notes, index and bibliographical essay is a must for anyone interested in fur traders and mountain men history. Terry Halden