



MONTANA
GHOST TOWN
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

preserving history for the next generation

VOLUME 51

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021



PRESERVATION AT ITS BEST

The Friends of Fort Connah turned the shell of a cabin (left) into this (below), with a very little help from M.G.T.P.S.



Convention 2021: Sunday morning at Fort Connah

Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

The **Montana Ghost Town Quarterly** is published four times a year by the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society, P.O. Box 1861, Bozeman, Montana 59771.
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Founded in 1970, the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public to the benefits of preserving the historic buildings, sites, and artifacts that make up the living history of Montana.

Opinions expressed in the bylined articles are the authors' and do not necessarily represent the views of the M. G. T. P. S.

FALL 2021

President: Brad O'Grosky
Vice President: Mark Hufstetler
Secretary / Treasurer: Connie Griffin
Website Administrator: Cindy Shearer
Facebook Administrator: Darian Halden
Grants Administrator: Cindy Shearer
Membership: Connie Griffin
Newsletter Editor: Terry Halden
2022 Convention: Brad Ogrosky
Directors: Dan Hill, David Steindorf, and Tammy Steindorf.

The Prez Sez

BRAD O'GROSKY

It was nice to see those of you who were at the convention in Kalispell and for those who didn't make it, you missed a great time. David and Tammy did a wonderful job and everything went smoothly.

Some changes have arisen which you should know about: First, Connie Griffin has resigned from the board and her duties as secretary/treasurer. She has done a great job over the last four years and it was greatly appreciated. Dan Hill, at first volunteered to replace her, but unfortunately due to personal commitments was unable to take the position. Connie has agreed to remain as Sec/Treas until a replacement is found. Therefore, I would ask if someone from the Bozeman area would step up to become a member of the board and take over the role of secretary/treasurer, it would be appreciated. We have been meeting on ZOOM which minimizes travel. Lastly, I have served two terms as President and the by laws allow for only two terms, but one can run again after a two year absence. Unfortunately, there was no one who volunteered to replace me, so I will continue as President until my replacement is found. Which brings me to two issues that I feel need to be addressed. First, we need some board members and younger ones would be great. The board makes me think of ghost towns. They do well when they start, but changes can make them less effective and bring them closer to dying. So encourage new members and members for our board.

The other issue, that the conventions and newsletters are wonderful educational tools, but we are a preservation society. We need to help preserve the ghost towns and our help is needed to find preservation projects. So please look around to see if there are any preservation projects we might be able to help with. Hopefully they would encourage new and younger members to become active as well. Stay well and look forward to seeing you in White Sulphur Springs next year.

BRAD

AS I SEE IT

from the RAMROD'S CHAIR

In this issue, you will find an article from John Phillips about Nathaniel Langford; A Photo Collage taken by our members at the excellent convention organized by the Steindorf family; a history of the ghost town of O'Rouke/Carter/Keystone by yours truly; along with the story of 'Seven Up Pete', a character that got his nickname not from his proficiency at drinking a well-known beverage, but from his dexterity at playing the early day card game of 'Seven Up'.

You will note, there are TWO articles from my pen; I can't continue boring you with my screed - I need help. PLEASE send any article that you have a mind to write to me at terryhalden@hotmail.com. I promise, with little editing, you will see it in print. Or, if you read an article in your local paper that might interest our members, let me know about it. I can always get permission to reprint it for all of us to enjoy.

TERRY

New Members

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

Ruth Kincaid, Livingston, MT

Victoria Simmons, Livingston, MT

Jane Roedel, Three Forks, MT

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

September 29th 2021

President Brad O'Grosky called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Board members attending via ZOOM were Mark Hufstetler, Terry Halden, Cindy Shearer, Dan Hill and Connie Griffin.

Mark moved that the June 12, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes be approved as printed in the Summer 2021 newsletter. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

For the Fiscal year of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 as of September 28, 2021 M.G.T.P.S. had an Income of \$5,026.80 and Expenses of \$6,010.41 for a Loss of \$983.61. The Cash Balances are Petty Cash \$160.20, Checking Account \$8,323.58 and Savings Account \$20,429.13. Cindy motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, Mark seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Membership:

M.G.T.P.S. has 278 members including the gift memberships and 23 Historical Societies. The board is hoping that many of the gift memberships from this year will sign up as regular members in January 2022 and is considering continuing to offer gift memberships again in 2022.

Correspondence:

M.G.T.P.S. received newsletters from Carbon County and Virginia City. The Gallatin History Museum sent 3 letters. One announcing their Annual Membership meeting being held on October 17. They sent a new corrected ballot and are asking for donations to help support their quarterly newsletter.

Old Business:

The website is accepting payments. Cindy is asking for any additions for the website.

The 50th Convention in Kalispell was great and was smoothly ran by Tammy and David Steindorf. Attendance was down from previous years and the money brought in was not enough to cover the cost of holding the event.

Terry has found several errors in the printing of Reflections Vol. 2 and feels that no more books should be sold. He has contacted the printer asking about a corrected reprint. The board is discussing the best way to proceed.

Cindy motioned to accept Connie's resignation as Secretary/Treasurer and Membership chairperson. Mark seconded the motion and the motion passed. Mark moved to appoint Dan Hill as the Secretary/Treasurer. Cindy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

According to M.G.T.P.S. Bylaws Brad has reached the term limit for being President but will continue as President until the position can be filled.

New Business:

Brad has applied for a grant to help fund future projects, but new projects have not been forthcoming and he is not sure we will receive it.

Terry needs new articles for the newsletter.

Brad received news that the restaurant he had hoped to use for the 2022 White Sulphur Springs convention lunch is being put up for sale. He said that visiting the ghost town of Castle should not be a problem and is looking into contacting the owners to ask if they are interested in preserving the town.

Terry said the Mineral County Sign project is going ahead. He is waiting for an update in the progress before giving the M.G.T.P.S. board the full update.

Cindy mentioned that the Manhattan Museum was able to purchase a replacement sign for a reasonable price from a company in N. Dakota.

Dan Hill visited Elkhorn recently and noticed the M.G.T.P.S. sign in front of the Fraternity Hall is in need of new posts and the sign board needs repainting. He received the ok to repair it from Fish, Wildlife, & Parks but will contact the Elkhorn Park Manager as well. Dan is willing to repair the sign. There will be supply costs for the repairs. He saw another sign that is in rough shape but repairing or replacing it might be another organizations responsibility.

Mark motioned that Dan fix the M.G.T.P.S. sign and be reimbursed for the costs. Cindy seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The property owners of Maudlow are reluctant to let us in for restoration projects. They don't want people visiting the town.

Mark motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The meeting was adjourned as Zoom had timed out.

Respectfully Submitted

Connie Griffin Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

can be found on page 10

NATHANIEL PITT LANGFORD

by JOHN PHILLIPS

(Courtesy Bannack Free Press)

Throughout its history Bannack had many interesting characters call it home. We know very little about most of the people who spent time here during the gold rush, but some made important and lasting contributions to Montana and the nation. One such character was Nathaniel Pitt Langford. His career in Montana lasted from 1862 – 1876 during which time he had many business interests, served as Post Master at Bannack, Collector of Internal Revenue, Bank Examiner for the Pacific States and Territories, was appointed Governor, explorer of Yellowstone Park, and writer of *Vigilante Days and Ways*.

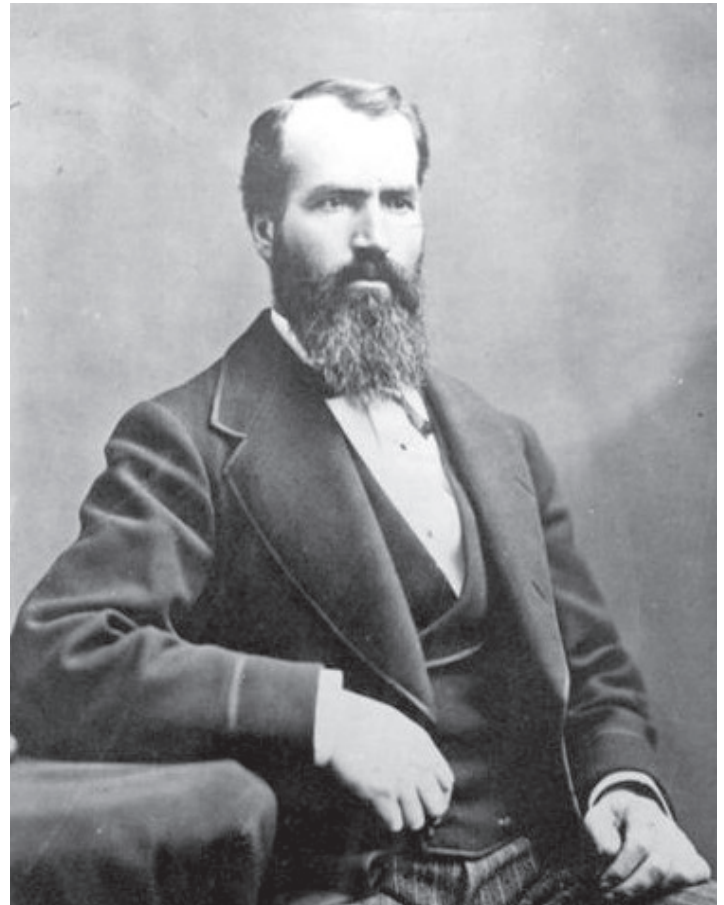
N.P. Langford (1832 – 1911) was raised in Westmoreland, New York. In the early 1850s the Langford family followed Chloe Langford and her husband James Wicks Taylor to St. Paul, Minnesota. Taylor was a journalist, lawyer, promoter of Minnesota, and special agent of the treasury department, whose duties included investigating mining operations in the west. Not long after arriving in St. Paul another sister, Abbey married William R. Marshall, banker, stock raiser, and fifth governor of the state of Minnesota. Langford's sisters provided him with some important connections.

From 1854 - 1857 Langford worked as a cashier in a banking firm owned by his brother-in-law, William Marshall until the economic panic of 1857 when the bank went bust. Then from 1858 to 1862 he worked as a cashier at the Bank of the State of Minnesota where he became acquainted with Francis M. Thompson, another man who left his mark on Montana Territory.

In 1862 when James Liberty Fisk was organizing the first of several government sponsored overland expeditions to the gold fields he hired Langford as an assistant in charge of commissary. Apparently Fisk's choice of Langford was designed to ensure the support of James W. Taylor an important player in Minnesota politics and promoter of the state as the gateway to the west.

The expedition left Ft. Abercrombie in western Minnesota on July 7, 1862 and arrived at Ft. Benton on September 5. Upon their arrival in Ft. Benton the party learned of a new gold strike and many members of the expedition decided to check out the prospects before heading west to the Salmon River Mines. The new diggings looked promising so Langford and a number of other members of the expedition established themselves on the south side of Grasshopper Creek, in a suburb of Bannack known as Yankee Flats.

After his arrival in Bannack Langford partnered with two other members of the Fisk Expedition Ard Godfrey and Cornelius Bray and built a sawmill. They "manufactured most of their necessary iron work ...from old, worn out wagons which had crossed the plains." In the summer and fall of 1863 Langford's saw mill was doing brisk business supplying



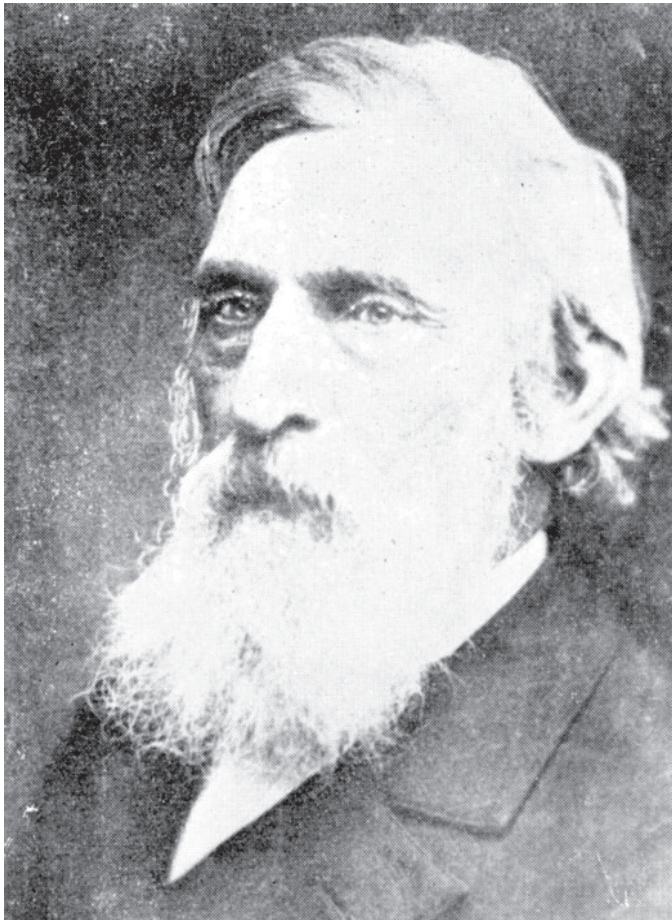
N. P. LANGFORD

Photo; INTERNET

lumber to Alder Gulch where the stampede was on. In August 1863 D.S. Payne, U.S. Marshall for Idaho Territory came to Bannack searching for a candidate for deputy marshal. Payne sought the recommendation of the Union League, (supporters of the northern cause during the Civil War) whose members almost unanimously recommended Sheriff Henry Plummer.

The one dissenting vote came from the Union League President, N.P. Langford. Langford said Plummer threatened him and said "you'll be sorry for this before the matter ends. I've always been your friend, but from this time on, I'm your enemy..." Langford apparently felt he was a marked man.

In November 1863 Langford, along with Samuel Hauser, departed for the east and did not return until spring. Langford apparently spent time in Washington D.C. and St. Paul. In Washington Langford and Hauser joined Sidney Edgerton in lobbying Congress to create the territory of Montana. Among the issues debated by Congress in relation to the Montana bill was the issue of suffrage, who would have the right to vote. Radical Republicans wanted to strike from the enabling act the words "white male inhabitants" and replace them with "male citizens of the United States and



SIDNEY EDGERTON Photo: INTERNET

those who have declared their intention to become such...shall be entitled to vote.” With the Montana bill Radical Republicans were attempting to expand the franchise and give black men the right to vote. To opponents of the bill the language was a moot point because blacks weren’t citizens and they didn’t believe there were any black men in the territory. A friend of Langford’s, Congressman Morton Wilkinson of Minnesota introduced the controversial language, and said he was informed by Langford “that one of the most respectable men in the Territory was a negro worth over fifty thousand dollars.” Who that might have been I’ve never been able to discover.

With the passage of the Montana bill and the aid of his influential brother-in-law, James W. Taylor, Langford secured himself an important federal position, Collector of Internal Revenue for Montana Territory (1864–1868). In 1869 President Andrew Johnson nominated him to be Montana’s third Territorial Governor but the Senate failed to confirm the appointment because of a feud with the President.

Langford wasn’t idol long. In 1866 he became acquainted with Jim Bridger while in Virginia City. Bridger, a man with forty years experience on the frontier told him about geysers that spouted water 60 feet in the air and other natural wonders located near the headwaters of the Yellowstone River. Langford had heard reports about this phenomenon

before but he “did not think that [Bridger’s] imagination was sufficiently fertile to originate the story of the existence of a spouting geyser, unless he had really seen one...

In August 1870, after several years of trying, Langford along with several other notable residents of the territory, including the Surveyor-General for Montana Territory, General Henry Washburn, organized an expedition to the region. Washburn was elected Captain. In the spring of that year Langford was in St. Paul where he secured a protective corps for the expedition from General Winfield Hancock. Lieutenant Doane and five members of the 2nd Cavalry based at Ft. Ellis near Bozeman were assigned the duty. The expedition was subsequently known as the Washburn – Doane Expedition.

Langford tells us that one night as the expedition was encamped at the confluence of the Firehole and Gibbon rivers Cornelius Hedges suggested that the region be preserved as a national park. Apparently, the idea of preserving the region wasn’t new. David Folsom who explored portions of the park in 1869 advocated the creation of a national park. What Langford and other prominent members of the expedition did was bring the cause to national attention. Langford and others published articles in popular magazines of the day promoting the idea and lobbied Congress. Langford was rewarded for his advocacy becoming the first Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park in March 1872.

While Langford lobbied for the park, he and his brother-in-laws were also involved with Jay Cooke’s Northern Pacific Railroad, which was actively involved in the park movement. Langford served as the unpaid Superintendent for nearly five years, but at the same time he was employed as the National Bank Examiner for the Pacific States and Territories (1872–1884) which required him to travel quite extensively.

In 1876 Langford returned to St. Paul where he was involved in numerous business and civic enterprises. In 1890 he published *Vigilante Days and Ways* today considered one of the standard texts on the Road Agent/Vigilante saga. It’s interesting that while Langford knew many of the participants in the drama he was not even in the territory during the winter of 1863–1864 when the Vigilantes took the law into their hands and hanged twenty some men. Apparently not everyone knew that and at his death in 1911 he was memorialized as the man who “boldly and fearlessly led the forces of good order and good government and after a fair but not legal trial brought punishment to most of the gang of desperate, lawless characters, who for years had terrorized all of the mining region...”

N.P. Langford was a Montana pioneer, entrepreneur, civil servant, writer and promoter. He spent fourteen years in Montana and left a legacy that includes the creation of Yellowstone National Park.

**CONVENTION '21
KALISPELL**



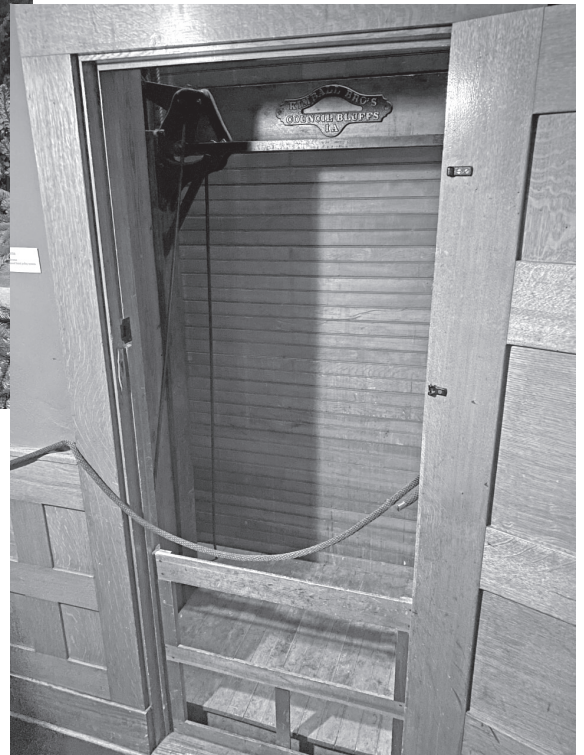
**Photo credits to:
CONNIE GRIFFIN
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DAVID & TAMMY
STEINDORF**



FRIDAY: Registration at Northwest Montana History Museum. A scrumptious taco dinner. Guest speaker PAUL STRONG giving a history of the Demersville area.



**SATURDAY: A visit to the Conrad Mansion.
It even had an elevator!**





Demersville, as it looks at it's peak in the late 1890's.



The grave of Clayton O. Ingalls, who ran the local newspaper.



Saturday Night Banquet.

**Left: Guest Speaker, Stewart See
Right: Entertainment, Rob Quest**

**SUNDAY:
Fort Connah**



The MINING DISTRICT of SPRING GULCH, MINERAL COUNTY and the GHOST TOWN of O'ROUKE / CARTER / KEYSTONE

by **TERRY HALDEN**

In the summer of 1887, five prospectors were exploring Spring Gulch (later known as Keystone Gulch) a south-westerly flowing stream from Keystone Mountain to the Clark Fork (or as it was then known as the Missoula River). About four miles upstream they discovered an abundance of silver galena and immediately registered claims with the authorities in Missoula. On the 3rd of August they registered the 'Iron King' and 'Iron Queen', the following day they registered the 'Silver Glance' and on the 5th, the 'Ivanhoe' and 'Keystone'. Adding the name of Phil O'Rourke who had made his money in Idaho when he located the 'Bunker Hill' group of claims and was the man that grubstaked (financed) the expedition, the five prospectors were John Cromie, William B. White, Frank Tibbels, Harry Boyer and Patrick ('Patsy') J. Finnigan.

Assuming the veins of ore extended two miles west to the Slowey Creek, another stream draining Keystone Mountain to the Clark Fork, the latecomers prospected it, but the only initially successful mine on Slowey was the 'Little Pittsburg.'

Back on Spring Gulch, the first order of business was to ensure there was enough water to sustain any mining efforts. To satisfy that need, according to the Helena Independent-Record of September 20, 1887, the five prospectors formed the *"Iron King Water Company", the object of which is to locate, appropriate, and use the waters of the Iron King spring situated on a mountain, two miles from Spring Gulch to be conducted to* the various mines on Spring Gulch

The next order of business, as winter was imminent for those that were staying was the building of cabins, and a town began emerging. The first necessity of a town was a saloon, and William Bryan filled the miners' needs. He freighted in two kegs of whiskey and set them up under the protective branches of an accommodating tree. No bar, no tables, no stools, no chairs and no glasses. Miners brought their own tin cups and were served a shot, straight from a spigot in the barrel. With his profit, Bryan was able to build and open a general store, using A. P. Johnson's freight line to supply him with groceries and stock from Missoula. As the town expanded, a butcher shop, blacksmith shops, a hotel, owned by D. McLean & Mrs. Kate McDowell, a restaurant run by Mrs. Nellie Veal, a boarding house,

another saloon and a boarding house for 'single ladies' appeared. It was time to name the town and O'Rourke fit the bill. It was changed to Carter in 1890, to honor Thomas Carter, a future Montana senator who was instrumental in securing a post office for the town in 1890 with the first postmaster being William Bryan. At its peak, the population was estimated at over 300.



**The Iron King & Iron Queen mining complex.
Photo: MINERAL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

As soon as the news was out, there was the expected stampede to the area, and although several 'mines' were registered, most were nothing more than prospectors' holes in the ground, with the exception of the 'O. R. & N.' located by E. W. Park. As the ore he mined assayed at 150oz. silver and 58% lead, he sold a major share to a Dr. Hargrave to help develop it. Two years later the mine was sold to Helena investors, who formed the O.R.& N. Mining Co.



An early photograph of the town of Carter.

Photo: MINERAL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 1891, the owners of the 'Keystone' leased the mine to Wing and Cromie (who was still one of the owners) to develop. The terms of the lease called for the owners to receive 20% of the net profits, but after four months it became obvious the owners could make 100% if they negated the lease agreement. As the lease contained such a clause upon payment to the lessees of \$2000, the owners did so, and continued operating the mine themselves. In October 1891, Tibbels sold his 1/8 interest in the mining operations to O'Rourke for \$7,500 and the following year the remaining owners formed the Keystone and King Mining & Milling Company.

1893 started with full expectations that the mines in the district would continue to provide wealth to the owners and prosperity to the town. The devaluation of silver that year was devastating on the economy.

The 'O.R. & N.' operation was already shut down, did not reopen. The Keystone and King Co., with a sharp decline in income, and expenses continuing, struggled to survive. Local merchants, also feeling the pinch, extended credit, but finally, lead by William Bryan, they forced the company into bankruptcy. Finally, in March 1894, the properties were sold at Sheriff's auction for \$1,736.55, the amount of indebtedness, with the eventual new owners being the Bland Mining & Milling Company.

The new company, which was debt free, did very little in operations, although it did lease the property to Cromie, but his success or failure to make it a viable concern is

unknown. With the population leaving the post office closed in 1894. In October 1900 the Bland Co. patented the 'Keystone', 'Iron King', 'Iron Queen' and the 'Ivanhoe', which was the only newsworthy thing they did, in living up to their name of Bland.

In 1901 there were rumors that Bland were trying to unload their properties in Spring Gulch, and this created a minor revival in interest in the area that the post office reopened in 1902. Although it was only a temporary revival. It wasn't until 1905 that they did sell out to a Pennsylvania investor Nelson Weddle for \$10,000, retaining a mortgage on the properties for \$5,000. Wendell in turn sold to a company he created called the King and Queen Mining Co. Despite new mill equipment being installed to 'remine' the slag heaps, very little new mining was done, and again, the post office closed.

After that, there were rumblings of the odd mine reopening, as witnessed by the Mining World in its October 10th 1908 issue, that reported "*J. B. Hunter, manager and part owner of the 'Iron Mask' mine at this place [Carter] is cross-cutting, in ore running at about \$20 to \$25 a ton, a tunnel of 1,075 feet and will continue west until it reaches a depth of 1,500 feet. Mill tests are being made to determine the size of the mill necessary to handle the volume of ore and, when this is determined, a plant will be erected. The ore carries from 8 to 40oz of silver and from 90 cents to \$5.50 in gold. Five men are employed.*" There was further favorable press in the November 16th 1912 issue of the Mining & Scientific Press, so it appears that at least one mine operation sustained itself during the lean years.

1911 saw a major revival of interest in the district with gold being discovered by two prospectors, Lou McHaffey and Sam Wilson. New capital, primarily from Pennsylvania moved in and in no time the Carter Mining and Milling Company was formed, and shares offered at 20c each. Unpatented claims were bought out whilst the 'Iron King' and 'Iron Queen' were consolidated to become the 'Nancy Lee'. Enough miners were in the area to again warrant the opening of a post office. But in the interim, the name Carter had been awarded to a town near Fort Benton, so the locals settled for a name change to Keystone. Mining in the district continued steadily until 1925 and after that on a declining, 'off and on' basis until the 1960s. An incident reported in the Mineral Independent on September 17th 1964 illustrates the hazards of mining, even in more modern times. At that time the 'Nancy Lee' was being

operated under lease by the Bunker Hill Mining Company and was down 1090 feet with an 1100 foot drift, when the miners encountered a fault, which they dug through. The newspaper reported "*On the lower level the tunnel runs through a fault, and it is impossible to 'hold the hole'. Timbers have to be reset constantly as the sides move in and the roof squashes down. In good bodies of ore, the rock is solid and the timbers stay where they are put.*" Although at the time the mine was producing ore with 10% copper, 2% lead and 12oz of silver per ton, they were forced to abandon development of the lower levels, because of this hazard.

Today, a trip up Keystone Creek will reveal the remnants of Keystone, but of the mines, there is little left.

**BELOW: The remains of KEYSTONE today.
Photos: TERRY HALDEN**



M.G.T.P.S. Annual General Meeting

September 11th 2021

President Brad O'Grosky called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Brad read from the Treasurer's Report that MGTPS has \$32,215.98.

He announced Connie Griffin's resignation from the board and that Dan Hill is considering filling the position.

Brad said that this year is the end of his 4-year term limit as President. Mark Hufstetler, the current Vice President, is not able to be President at this time. Mark is currently fighting forest fires. Brad is willing to continue as President until a new president is found.

Jerry Hanley moved that Brad continue as President. The motion was seconded and the motion passed.

Brad said he is sorry that Terry & Darian Halden couldn't make it to the convention this year because the American/Canadian Border is still closed. He thanked Terry for the great job he has done in all the years as the newsletter editor and asked members to send articles for the newsletter.

Brad thanked Tammy & David Steindorf for the wonderful convention.

He said the yearly conventions are great, but that is not what the organization was founded for. We need new members and projects. He encouraged all members to look for new members and present projects to the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08

Respectfully Submitted **Connie Griffin** Sec./Treas.

Named after a grizzled prospector, the history of

"SEVEN UP" PETE CREEK

by **TERRY HALDEN**

Peter McMahon, who went by the nick-name of 'Seven Up' Pete was a beloved character in Butte and when he died in the Sisters Hospital there on May 28, 1886, at the age of 55, of what the papers described as 'softening of the brain' (today known as Alzheimer's) his subsequent funeral was attended by hundreds of mourners. McMahon was one of the original prospectors that had panned for gold in the area, as he put it, "*when Butte was just a hole in the ground*", and is credited with naming the stream he was prospecting Silver Bow after noticing the early morning sunlight reflecting off the surface.

After locating some gold in what became Butte, he continued prospecting and one of the streams he tried was a stream that runs northwest from the Divide to join the Blackfoot river five miles east of where Lincoln is today. He named the stream Seven Up Pete, a name that it still bears today. Again, not finding too much gold he moved on.

In August of 1882, Peter Thompson and E. F. Schumacher were prospecting the upper reaches of Seven Up Creek when they discovered an outcrop of gold that they named the 'Rover'. They registered their find on August 25th. It appears that the mine, although having promise, wasn't exactly a bonanza strike as by the following February, Schumacher had sold his half of the mine for \$500 to a John Anderson, who the next day unloaded it to an Ivor Wulff for the same amount of dollars. The next month Thompson got rid of his interests, also to Wulff for \$400. Wulff now owned the 'Rover' and proceeded to Seven Up Creek to inspect his property. He wasn't impressed with what he found, but whilst he was there he figured he might as well look around and located a slightly better prospect that he named the 'Columbia'.

On April 22 1887 the new North West newspaper reported "*At Seven Up Pete, on the west side of the main range, seven men wintered, developing quartz leads that are very promising*". Promising was the key word here. Later

that year Wulff was able to convince three men, Messrs. Powers, Word and Wells to form a company known as the Columbia Mining Company, bond the mine, and commence digging a shaft to find out if it was worth purchasing. By December the mine was down 130 feet with no appreciable returns and the company was never heard of again. Wulff got some of his money back when in 1892 he sold a part interest in the 'Columbia' to a Jacob Sweitzer for \$2,500. Even Wulff finally called it quits and left the area because in 1899 his 'Rover' claim was re-located by prospectors.

In 1902 in a complicated ownership deal, because the bank owned a portion of the claim whilst estates owned other shares, J. H. Longmaid, a knowledgeable mining man with a lot of past experience took a four year lease on the 'Columbia' and proceeded to deepen the inclined shaft to 300 feet striking low value gold at the 200 foot level. The seam was said to be seven to eight feet in width and assays were from \$1.60 to \$7.20 in gold per ton. Longmaid was the only mining man to make any money from the district.

A decade later, in July of 1912, some hunters came across a cabin at the head of the creek and peering into the cabin noted a body in a bunk. Entering they discovered the mummified body of John G. Watt, a hermit prospector in the creek for over 30 years, who must of passed away sometime the previous winter.

The story of Seven Up Creek ends in the Supreme Court of Montana in June 2008 when a decision was handed down that enforced a lower court's finding to stop Canyon Resources Corporation, doing business as Seven Up Pete Venture from going ahead with a cyanide leaching plant following an open pit mine that they proposed in the district. Obviously, the November 1998 Montana decision to ban cyanide operations following the major environmental disaster a little further upstream on the Blackfoot river at the 'Mike Horse' mine that destroyed fishing in the river for a generation, was still fresh in their minds.



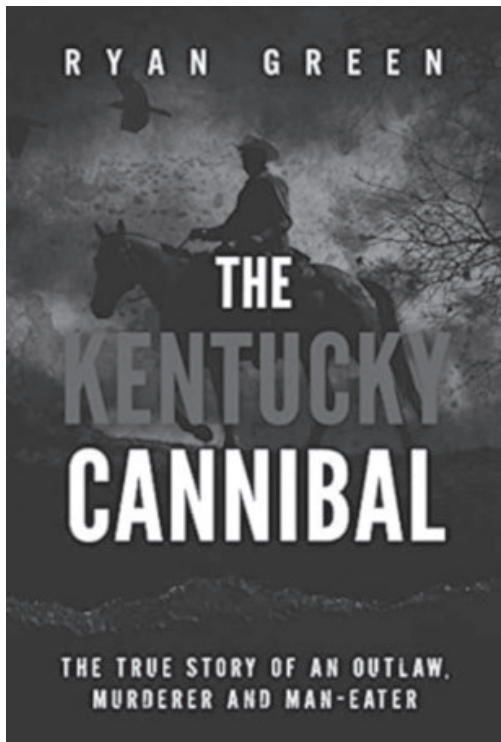
preserving history for the next generation

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

REVIEW:

The KENTUCKY CANNIBAL

by Ryan Green



Ryan Green, an English author, relates the history of notorious, cannibal, Boone Helm in chilling detail. Definitely, not a book for the squeamish. Helm, who had no conscious other than self-preservation and gain, often befriended like criminals, only to end up callously killing them, if it was to his benefit. Casual meetings with unsuspecting men on lonely trails were easy kills for him, if they possessed anything of value. His infamous episode of cannibalism told in gruesome detail, was according to Green not his first taste of human flesh. Helm, of course, came to the end of a noosed rope courtesy of the Virginia City Vigilantes on January 14th 1864, but not before he raised mayhem in Kentucky, California, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia, Canada.

Green lays out a comprehensive life story of Helm, in a very readable format, but sometimes gets the background details confused or out of context. He lists the hanging of Plummer (January 10th 1864) as a result of Helm's dispatch. This, no doubt, is because the author, who lives in Hereford, England, did not do enough local research, and relied on second hand information for his book.

Terry Halden