



MONTANA
GHOST TOWN
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

preserving history for the next generation

VOLUME 51

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021



The ghost town of Quigley, 1905, shortly after it was abandoned.

Photo: MALCOLM BOWDEN

Read the story of Quigley on page 7

Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

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Founded in 1970, the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public to the benefits of preserving the historic buildings, sites, and artifacts that make up the living history of Montana.

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

SUMMER 2021

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Directors: Dan Hill, David Steindorf and Tammy Steindorf
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The Prez Sez

BRAD O'GROSKY

Well here we are folks, starting to return to what was normal a year and a half ago. The ghost towns weren't affected by the virus and I hope you and your loved ones weren't either.

Your board has been meeting via ZOOM since Terry and Darian live on the wrong side of the border and can't get across. The convention in Kalispell is coming up and David and Tammy have done a great job so make sure to get your reservations in and plan to attend. Plans for the 2022 convention in White Sulphur Springs are being made and if anyone would like to help, please contact me. There are still copies of both Reflections I and II available. I've given copies to several friends so think about doing the same as they are very interesting reading as well as creating more interest in preservation. And speaking of preservation, remember that is our goal. The great newsletter that Terry puts out and the conventions are wonderful, but our goal is still preservation. So keep looking for projects that we can help with to achieve that goal and let your board know of them.

Stay well and see you in Kalispell.

BRAD

AS I SEE IT

from the RAMROD'S CHAIR

In this issue, the lead article is about the history of Gallatin Gateway, for which I have to thank Rachel Phillips, a regular contributor to the newsletters. The town has an interesting pedigree from its start as Salesville to its present status as Gallatin Gateway.

My effort is the history of George Babcock. Over the years, history has branded him as a conman and outright crook; laying on him, his extravagant plans to develop a worthless mine, which was the reason the Golden Scepter Mining Company went bust and the town of Quigley quickly died. Not long after the dust had settled a minor investor in the company was asked if he thought the mine was 'salted', to which he replied, 'No. There were too many inspections and assays carried out by competent people for it to be a hoax'. There is the unconfirmed rumor, that in the 1910's the Rainy Day Mining Company operated the old Sceptre property for several years at a profit but I can find no concrete evidence of this. So, maybe, just maybe, the Jumbo Mountain still holds its wealth

See you in Kalispell (if the border opens by then)

TERRY

New Members

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

John Holler, Whitefish, MT

Jim Nelson, Kalispell, MT

Randy Kenyon, Polebridge, MT

Jolia Halden, Calgary, AB

Carol Kinne, North Bend, WA

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

June 12th 2021

President Brad O'Grosky called the meeting to order at 10:28 am. Board members attending via ZOOM were Mark Hufstetler, Terry Halden and Connie Griffin.

Terry motioned to approve the March 27, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes as printed in the Spring 2021 newsletter. Mark seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

For the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, as of June 12, 2021, M.G.T.P.S. had an Income of \$12,256.82 and Expenses of \$10,258.16 for a Net Income of \$1998.66. The Cash Balances are Petty Cash \$60.20; Checking Account \$19,512.19; and Savings Account \$10,428.01.

Terry motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mark seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Correspondence:

M.G.T.P.S. received a letter from Cindy Shearer, the Executive Director of the Gallatin History Museum. She will be stepping down as Executive Director, but will remain on the Board of Directors. There was a letter from the Gallatin History Museum asking M.G.T.P.S. to increase the level of membership. The board decided to remain at the current membership level. There were also several newsletters from other organizations.

Old Business:

The website is not currently accepting payments.

Terry did not have an update on the sign project for the Mineral County Historical Society. They plan on having 6 of the signs up this year.

Brad reported that the DeFrance's still want to replace the windows in the IM Store in Pony, but have not asked for a grant yet.

Reflections Vol. 1 & 2 books sales: 55 sets of Volume 1 & 2 have been sold, plus 6 copies of Volume 2.

New Business:

Terry needs articles for the newsletter.

Brad has reserved the Community Center for the 2022 Convention in White Sulphur Springs. He found a local caterer and has chosen the Spa Motel to reserve a block of rooms for \$100/night. For Saturday's itinerary he is looking into visiting the Jawbone Rail Road substation, Church and Store in Lennep (these are private property and he is contacting the owners for permission to visit) and the Bahr Museum in Martinsdale. Lee Silliman will have photos and a presentation on charcoal kilns Saturday evening.

Lee Barnett, the owner of a building in Maudlow, is not sure if he wants to preserve the building.

The reprinting of the book "If These Walls Could Talk" written by John Ellington was discussed. Terry isn't sure we would find enough buyers.

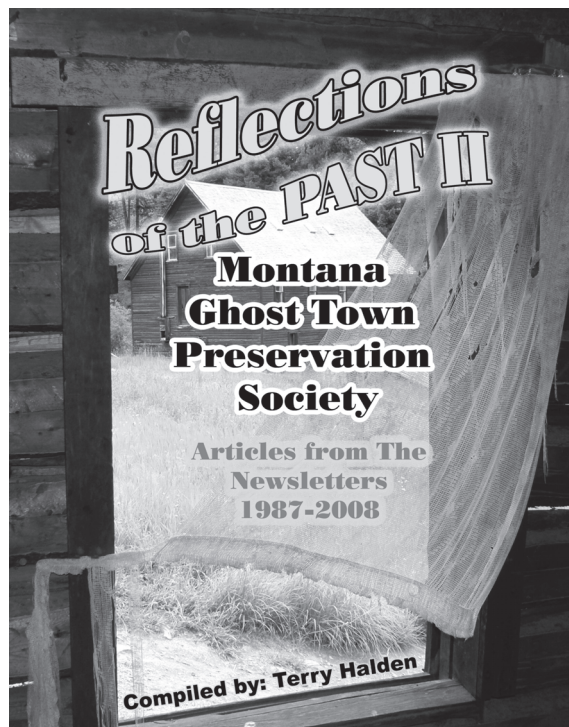
Terry motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 am. Mark seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Respectively submitted,

Connie Griffin
Treasurer

Secretary/

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M.G.T.P.S.

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GALLATIN GATEWAY.....A History of

by RACHEL PHILLIPS

The community of Gallatin Gateway is one of the older settlements in Gallatin County and had its beginnings in the 1860s. Zachariah Sales relocated his family from Wisconsin to the Gallatin Valley in 1865, and they began ranching. Because of the abundance of timber in Gallatin Canyon and convenient waterpower from the West Gallatin River, Sales soon established a sawmill. Crews floated logs down the river to be processed at the mill, and the resulting lumber was used to construct buildings in Gallatin County and as far away as Virginia City, Montana. The little town that sprang up around the sawmill was initially called Slabtown – named for the unfinished wooden planks used in construction of many of the local buildings. Population steadily increased as mill workers moved to the area, joining local ranchers and their families.

On July 13, 1883, Slabtown's name was changed to Salesville, in honor of Zachariah Sales. Prominent local resident and businessman John J. Tomlinson drew a plat of the town, which included eight streets—Tracy, Bozeman, Mill, and Sales (running east-west), and Lynde, Adams, Webb, and Bench (running north-south). Like Zachariah Sales, Tomlinson was an entrepreneur. He established a flour mill, located approximately one mile north of Salesville. Tomlinson was also community-minded, and in 1885 he donated several lots near the northwest corner of Bozeman St. and Adams St. for a church. He acquired the old Zachariah Sales sawmill in about 1900, and according to the book, *Salesville and the Todd Family*, Tomlinson maintained the old water wheel at the mill as a community feed grinder. Additionally, a wood saw remained in operation during this time so that local residents could cut their own firewood to convenient lengths. Zachariah Sales' old sawmill was eventually demolished in about 1915.

A variety of businesses soon emerged in the young community. L. W. and Molly Orvis established a grocery store on the corner of Mill St. and Lynde St. The Orvis store later expanded to sell hardware and dry goods and eventually included a post office. In about 1906, Charlie Overstreet founded a livery stable and Alex Shadoan started the Salesville Mercantile Company. Other early businesses in town included a drug store, hotel, blacksmith shop, barber shop, meat market, and saloons. In 1913, the community also briefly had its own newspaper called the *Salesville Weekly Times*.

The Salesville State Bank was built in about 1910 on the south side of Mill Street. The bank had close ties with Harry W. Child, Charles Anceney, and the Flying D Ranch. Harry W. Child helped establish the Yellowstone Park Transportation Company in 1892 and managed several hotel and transportation concessions in Yellowstone Park. Charles Anceney, his wife Marie, and their children arrived in the Gallatin Valley in 1864 and started a ranch south of present-day Manhattan. Anceney was a French immigrant who Americanized his last name, Anxionnaz, upon his arrival in Montana. In 1911, Charles Anceney and Harry Child partnered to form what would later become known as the Flying D Ranch. The Flying D was a prominent customer at the Salesville State Bank until the bank dissolved in 1929. The brick bank building later housed the Old Faithful Inn bar, known today as Stacey's.

Formal education began in Salesville in 1883, with the establishment of School District No. 35. According to local histories of the area, class was initially held in Zachariah Sales' sawmill and the teacher's salary was



\$40.00 per month. For the rest of the nineteenth century, Salesville school held classes in various one-room framed structures. In 1902, School District No. 35 acquired its own property on the south side of Mill Street, on land at one time owned by John J. Tomlinson. A larger frame school building was built on this new site, which was used until a brick school was constructed in 1914. The one-room frame schoolhouse was moved across the street to the northwest corner of Mill Street and Webb Street. A cheese factory later operated out of this building, and the frame schoolhouse still stands in this location today.

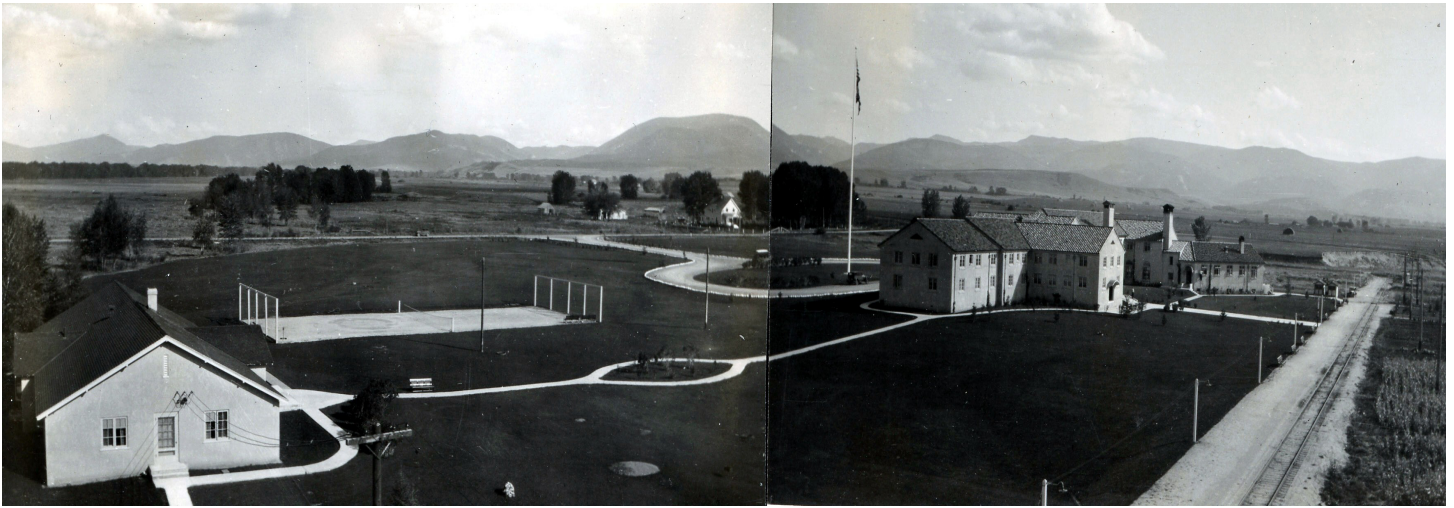
Thanks to the area's wealth of natural resources, associations with families like Sales, Tomlinson, Child and Anceney, and a close proximity to Yellowstone National Park, Salesville grew steadily in the twentieth century. Electric rail service to the region began in 1909, when the Gallatin Valley Electric Railway completed a track that stretched south and west from Bozeman. By October, local residents and ranchers enjoyed freight and passenger service directly to Salesville. Within only a few years, additional track connected Three Forks, Belgrade and Manhattan with Bozeman, Hot Springs, and Salesville. This new interurban line allowed farmers and ranchers to easily and quickly transport grain, hay and livestock to the main Northern Pacific and Milwaukee Railroad lines in Bozeman and Three Forks. Passengers from across the Gallatin Valley could now travel with ease between area communities. The Milwaukee Railroad soon took over ownership of the interurban line and use continued until 1978, when the Milwaukee finally ceased operating in Gallatin County.

In 1926, the Milwaukee Railroad ushered in a new era for Salesville with the introduction of bus service through Gallatin Canyon to West Yellowstone. An impressive log archway, designed by Bozeman architect Fred Willson, was erected in Gallatin Canyon and dedicated in August 1926. The *Bozeman Courier* newspaper reported on August 6, that several hundred people attended the dedication. A "be-ribboned bottle of water from Yellowstone Lake" was used to christen the unique gateway structure. The Gallatin Gateway arch was located near the north end of the Canyon, between Spanish Creek and today's Rockhaven camp. Additionally, Milwaukee Railroad officials prepared for the coming bump in tourism by improving the railway branch line from Three Forks to Salesville. To celebrate its new status as a major Yellowstone Park "gateway" city, Salesville officially changed its name to Gallatin Gateway on March 1, 1927. The Gallatin Gateway arch impressed early motorists through the canyon for a couple decades until highway widening led to its removal.

As part of the improved access route through Gallatin Canyon to Yellowstone Park, the Milwaukee Railroad built the Gallatin Gateway Inn. Situated just northeast of Salesville, construction of the Inn began in February 1927. Workers completed the mammoth structure in record time, and the grand opening was held only four months after construction began, on June 17, 1927. Montana Governor J. E. Erickson and Northern Pacific and Milwaukee Railroad officials attended the opening festivities, which included a morning presentation in Bozeman and a trip down Gallatin Canyon. An open house was held at the new Gallatin Gateway Inn, where, according to the *Bozeman Courier* on June 24, "the largest crowd in the history of the county gathered in the evening to admire the structure, partake of the dainties and enjoy the dancing." The *Courier* reported that "between 10,000 and 20,000 persons" attended the festivities—an almost unbelievable number. Even if the attendance figures were slightly exaggerated, it is certain the day-long event was well-attended. It is clear Gallatin

Gateway's new connection with Yellowstone Park was a big deal. In all the excitement that evening, the crowd at the Inn did get a little out of hand. The *Courier* lamented, "scores of over-enthusiastic visitors took advantage of the hospitality offered to obtain souvenirs, carrying away silverware and dishes and whatever other small objects that came handy. One of the rugs belonging to the hotel was stolen, and during the crush considerable damage was done to rugs, furniture and fixtures. The total loss, it is reported, will run well over \$1,500."

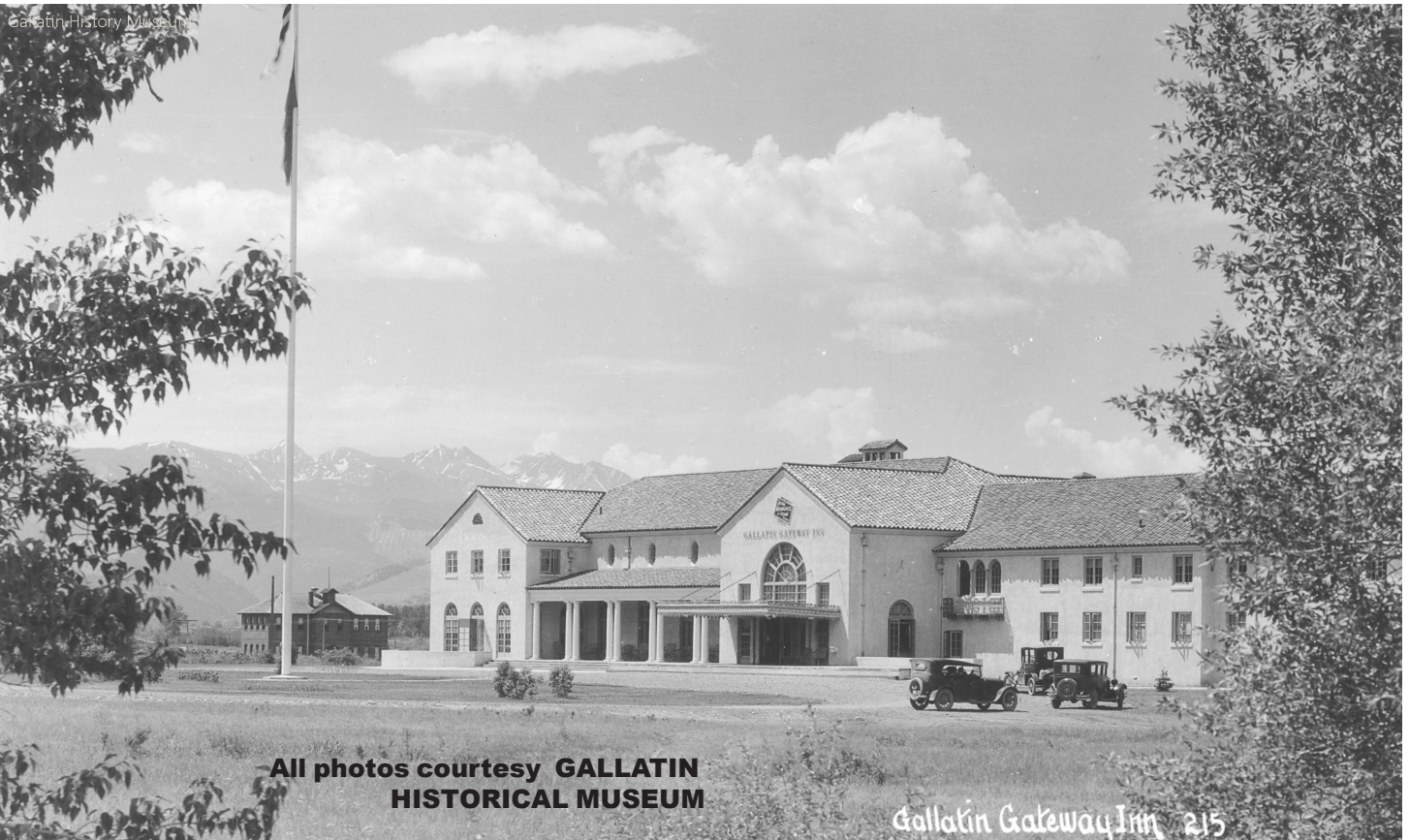




The Gallatin Gateway Inn cost a quarter of a million dollars to build and it was considered one of the most elegant hotels in the state in the 1920s. Milwaukee trains carried travelers as far as the Inn, where passengers disembarked to relax and dine while awaiting a bus trip through Gallatin Canyon to West Yellowstone. Many tourists chose to stay overnight in one of the 26 guest rooms and took advantage of the modern showers to clean up after their long journey. The Inn was well-staffed by young men and women, many of whom were students at Montana State College. Employees spent their summers earning tuition money as employees of the Milwaukee Railroad, working as maids, cooks, drivers, and luggage handlers.

The Milwaukee Railroad and the Gallatin Gateway Inn eventually found it hard to compete with automobile popularity and a steadily improving road through Gallatin Canyon. The Milwaukee sold the Inn in the early 1950s, and while the property has passed through several different owners, it still stands today as a reminder of Gallatin Gateway's involvement in early travel to Yellowstone National Park.

The Gallatin Gateway story is still evolving. Despite rapid growth to the area, the community has been able to hold on to many elements of its historic past. Gateway's Willing Workers Ladies Aid society celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2012, the old 1914 brick school building remains the core of School District No. 35, and Stacey's Bar is still the place to be on a Saturday night. We look forward to the next chapter in Gallatin Gateway's history book.



All photos courtesy GALLATIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Gallatin Gateway Inn 215

GEORGE H. BABCOCK

Was he a Con-Man?

Was he a Crook?

You decide.

by TERRY HALDEN

Shortly after the Golden Scepter Mining Company went bust, and the bustling town of Quigley became a ghost town, in its December 21, 1900 edition, the Butte, Daily Inter Mountain newspaper printed an inaccurate account of the collapse of the mining empire, blaming the entire disaster on the man they said was the chief con man Major Wilcox. Obviously, they couldn't name George Babcock, as they would have opened themselves to a massive lawsuit, but all the readers knew who they were referring to.

Based on these inaccuracies, on December 19, 1941, Si Stoddard, a historian in Anaconda, supposedly after interviewing two 'eye witnesses', produced a twelve page 'report' elevating Babcock (properly identified now that he was dead) from a con-man to an out and out crook. His report will be referred to at times.

But here is the true story of George H. Babcock, the Golden Scepter Mining Company, and the ghost town of Quigley..

On the northwestern side of the John Long Mountain chain, located on the northwestern corner of Granite County, the runoff streams flow west into Rock Creek, which in turn flows north to empty into the Clark Fork near the present site of Bonita, Missoula County. This area was thirty-five mountainous miles, with no roads from Philipsburg, the county seat of Granite County, but only fifteen miles from the Northern Pacific tracks at Bonita, even though the first five were down precipitous gorges to the Rock Creek valley and then there were still no roads north. This was the country that, in the late 1880s James Hammond and various partners were prospecting.

In 1886, at the head of Harvey Creek, a stream that actually flows northeast to the Clark Fork he discovered three outcrops of flake gold that he named, the 'Golconda', 'Aetna' and 'Alps' mines. Joining with John Caplice, J. J. Hammer, and John C. Woods, the latter an attorney, they formed the Alps Mining Company. As the ore was of low quality, it soon became apparent that hauling the ore out via nearby Grizzly Creek to Rock Creek, and then north to the railhead was not a paying proposition. To solve the problem in 1891 they purchased a ten-stamp mill that had previously been used by Nate Vestal, at his 'Penobscot' mine in Lewis and Clark County, dismantled it and hauled it back, setting it up on Grizzly Creek. Now they were hauling processed ore out of the region. The mines were patented and Hammond, who was a prospector not a mine developer, continued prospecting the area.

In August 1894 he located two more outcrops, the 'Hidden Treasure' and the 'Great Republic'. By now the district, referred to as the Harvey Creek Mining District was getting noticed and Charles D. McLure, who had previously discovered the Granite load near Philipsburg, that had made him wealthy, jumped in, bonding both mines for \$15,000, with a \$1,500 cash down payment and immediately put thirty men to work developing the mines.

Through early 1894 George H. Babcock, previously superintendent of the Hope Mill Company in Philipsburg, was in the New York area, along with his wife, trying, successfully, to get eastern investment money for mining enterprises in the Pioneer District. Returning to Montana he later claimed that some wealthy eastern capitalists had asked him to look out for new mining ventures for them to invest in. Meantime, James



RIGHT The Alps mining complex. Photo: Internet

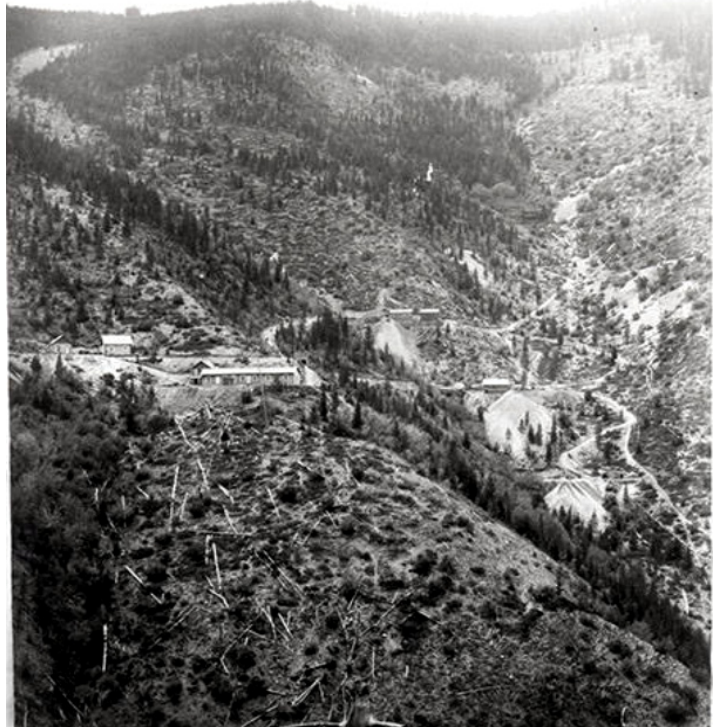
Hammond had been prospecting further north in the John Long Mountains had located five gold prospects on the southwest slope of Jumbo Mountain. Besides the 'Jumbo', 'Double Standard', 'Jem', 'Cyanide' and 'Free Coinage' mines, the property included 160 acres of heavily timbered land along with water rights on Brewster Creek, a stream that flowed west to Rock Creek. The ore from the properties assayed at \$20 gold to the ton. When Babcock learned of this, he contacted his money men back east and some of them came out west in late 1894 to inspect the properties that he recommended. Negotiations started and in May 1895, Babcock was able to give Hammond a down deposit cheque for \$3,000, which bonded the property for \$30,000 for his eastern investors.

According to Stoddard: *A freighter named Levi Johnson told Babcock that there were two mines near Rock Creek that could be purchased for a song. Babcock took an assay of the ore from the mine that showed a value of \$20 to the ton, borrowed \$1,200.00 from Johnson for expenses and went east to drum up investment money. He met a capitalist named Quigley and a tycoon connected with the wholesale spice business and when he showed them the assay rocks, the two dupes were interested in investing money and arranged for a metallurgist to accompany Babcock back to the mines. Learning that the ore seam in the mines had pinched out Babcock entertained the expert (WHERE???) whilst a trusted employee switched the contents of the bags of ore the metallurgist had secured with samples from a nearby mine, that did assay at \$20 a ton. When the expert's report was received back east, investment money flowed west.*

The enterprise named itself the Golden Sceptre Mining Company and was incorporated in Delaware. Babcock was named the local superintendent and laid out his plans to first build a wagon road from the mines to Bonita, to facilitate supplies in and ore out of the property and to build a boarding house close to the mines on the first available flat piece of ground to house the miners who were to start work on the mines. Knowing that eastern men of wealth were about to grace his home, in July 1895, Babcock purchased the Peterson Ranch, just south of Bonita, at the head of Rock Creek and got ready for his guests. On August 8, the Hon. Harry Emmone, (a lawyer), a Professor R. S. Law, James T. Quigley and a Professor Stadler (a metallurgist) arrived to inspect their investment and go over the plans their superintendent had made. When they left, the samples of ore taken and assayed right there, were as indicated, and, according to written reports, they were more that satisfied with the proposed work.

To coincide with the road north that the company was undertaking at an estimated cost of \$15,000, they asked Missoula County to build a bridge over the Missoula River (as Clarke Fork was then referred to) at an estimated cost of \$2,500. As this would ensure the town of Missoula merchants to the north, would benefit from any supplies purchased for the inhabitants of Rock Creek, the request fell on favorable ears. It was completed by the end of April 1896 and approved by the Missoula County authorities at that time.

Early 1896 Babcock confirmed that whilst company President Emmone visited they had looked at a possible site for an electrical power plant in the Rock Creek valley, and he intended continuing with the search. He also confirmed that a telephone line had now been installed from the lines at Bonita to the company office in the budding town of Golden. The Missoulian of February 1, 1896 best described the location as: "About two miles up Brewster Gulch is Golden, on a side gulch that is not two blocks wide. There is the company office & assay house, a few log buildings, a saloon & eating house and a boarding house operated by O'Shaughnessy & Murry of Missoula. Five miles above Golden up a narrow extremely winding road that hugs the left bank of Brewster Gulch and is a 9% grade are the Golden Sceptre mines, situated on the mountain side, about half way to the summit. The road is an example of the many difficulties Superintendent Babcock has overcome in order to make the mines accessible for transportation facilities. There are millions and millions of low-grade ore in sight that can be treated profitably." The report ended with the notation "Golden will be a halfway station between the mines and Bonita for some time to come, but never a town. The mouth of Brewster Creek promises to be the mecca of that region". Excellent forecasting, as this was where the town of Quigley was platted.



A view looking down Jumbo Mountain to the Sceptre Mine illustrating the sheer gorge of Brewster Creek and the Rock Creek valley below. Photo: INTERNET

Later in February Babcock was joined by J. T. Quigley, and together they negotiated contracts with Levi C. Jonson for his freight company, consisting of rolling stock and 150 head of horses, to move a million and a half feet of lumber from the lumber mill to the mouth of Brewster Creek for the construction of a new mill. Later he was to haul mill machinery from Bonita to the new mill site. Afterwards Babcock and his boss travelled to Chicago together to order

the mill machinery along with six miles of steel rails as the company intended putting in an electrical tramway to carry the ore from the mines to the new mill. By the end of February, Babcock was back and able to confirm that his boss had ordered a 100-stamp, each weighing 900 pounds, mill equipment and that the rock foundations of the mill would start immediately, or at least as soon as the winter weather permitted.

Again, according to Stoddard: *“Quigley was of brief duration, but long enough to separate any number of investors from their savings. So convincing was Babcock’s line of sales that men of international prominence were drawn to the web. President Grover Cleveland is said to have sunk \$25,000 in the venture and Lord Strathcona, prime minister of Canada was said to be another.” (Lord Strathcona was never P.M. of Canada)”*

The new town, which Babcock named Quigley, in honor of its benefactor, was platted and the Townsite Company started selling lots along two streets. Business lots sold for \$500 to \$600 each whilst lots for cabins less. By April over fifty buildings were completed, including eight saloons, two meat markets, two stables, a blacksmith, two barber shops, a tinsmith, five restaurants and four boarding houses. To keep up with demands, the lumber company put on two shifts., and still couldn’t keep up with demand. Meantime Babcock was building a three-story rock mansion on his ranch property, and it was about completed in early 1896. Whilst. In late April J.T. Quigley and his wife moved into a new residence he had constructed in the town that bore his name.

In the June 4 edition of the Philipsburg Mail, it was reported at the mines, in seven tunnels, cross cuts and upraises, 5,200 feet had been excavated and enough ore was in sight to fully justify the erection of a 100-stamp mill which is being constructed as rapidly as an army of men can execute the work. The entire plant of the Golden Scepter Company is to be operated by electricity. One pair of improved 23-inch Turbine water wheels producing 500 horsepower will be directly connected to a large generator for supplying power to the mill.



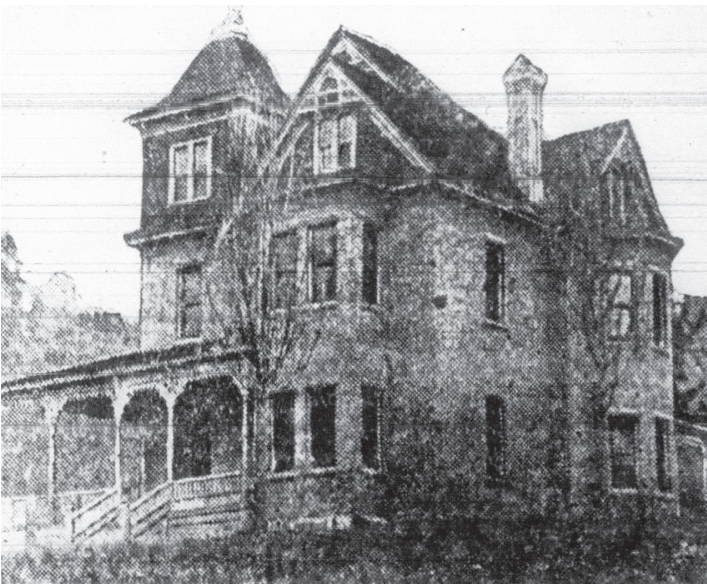
Quigley

Photo: MALCOLM BOWDEN

The first dark shadow of the storm that was to come, came in late June when it was reported that in laying the rails between the mine and the proposed mill site because of the narrow gorge they had to cross some placer mining property owned by two prospectors C. H. Eshbaugh and John Rains, (deceased). The strip of ground was 50 feet wide by 1,200 feet long and as the two parties could not come to agreement as to a purchase price the Golden Scepter commenced a suit against the two holdouts. Eventually the court appointed three noted appraisers to determine the value of the land that the company wanted to cross. The appraised value of the disputed property was \$757.90, which the company offered in settlement. The contestants refused and started a suit for \$10,000. The tracks were laid from the mine to the property line and from the opposite line to where the mill was now approaching completion.

Despite this setback, life at Quigley continued with the number of completed buildings approaching one hundred. The town population was estimated at over 500, with what was described as a ‘floating population’ living in tents. Water pipes were being laid to provide the town with an adequate water supply at ‘a reasonable’ cost. Babcock’s palatial three-story building was completed with all the modern conveniences, including indoor plumbing, and ornate interior fixtures.. On July 7, the man that had started all this, James Hammond passed away on a train. He was heading east to seek assistance for an undisclosed medical problem that he had. He was 68.

Frank D. Brown, the manager of the McLure’s ‘Hidden Treasure’ stated he was on good terms with J. T. Quigley and had discussed with him the idea of the ‘Hidden Treasure’ building a hundred-ton mill in the valley near the town and using the tramway to transport the ore from their mine, which was close to the ‘Jumbo’, to the valley floor at a reasonable rate.



**The mansion that Babcock built for himself,
Photo: ANACONDA STANDARD**

By May, heavy rains, and more snow in the mountains played havoc with the plans. The roads became quagmires and grounded all heavily loaded wagons, although three stages from Bonita were arriving daily in Quigley and disgorging more people. Two local papers started up, the Quigley Times and Rock Creek Record, with both presses housed initially in tents

The Golden Scepter company employed 450 men, with a monthly payroll of \$50,000 and in September, there was a delay in wage checks arriving from head office in Delaware. The local bookkeeper Thomas Ward satisfied the employees by paying them in cash on the 25th, payday. On October 13th A. J. Colburn of Philadelphia, the previously mentioned Spice Merchant, a major stockholder of the company visited the property and went away satisfied with what he had seen, along with the plans Babcock had for development. The mill was ready for hook up to the electricity generating plant for testing operations to start. At this point almost \$750,000 had been invested.

And then in November, the bombshell exploded. The company confessed that on November 2nd it had a judgment against it in favor of creditors for \$284,000 back east. Within three minutes of the news breaking, local creditors issued lawsuits adding another \$24,200 to the outstanding debt score. Yet the company still had assets of over half a million dollars, consisting of the mine buildings, equipment, the mill, the tramway and the electric plant, not to mention the workforce ready to get underway. The call was out to either find new investors or to sell the company to someone who could continue the operation.

Whilst the financial wrangling was going on, the miners who were now looking for their October paycheck started leaving, followed by customer starved business owners in the town, the entire area was becoming deserted. The following November, the entire property, including mining claims, water rights and town sites was sold at sheriff's auction for \$459,529.54 to J. M. Keith of Missoula as trustees for the Majestic Gold Mining Company, It was hoped that this company would be the successor to the Scepter and

further develop the property. But this company never got off the ground. Fraser and Chalmers, the Chicago machinery manufacturing giant, had not been included in the financial settlement, and they had a mechanic's lien on most of the mill equipment. Not having been paid, under court order, they gutted the mill, repossessed their interests and carted it back for resale. There were still labor interests that had not been satisfied, along with unsecured creditors, that attached themselves to the new company. In 1899, Majestic went bankrupt, and its assets were sold to A. J. Colburn of Philadelphia., who maintained he was out a quarter million investment. He was no longer interested in mining low quality gold ore and engaged D. Daigle, one of the few remaining residents of Quigley to dismantle anything of value from the mine, and other possessions of the company and freight them to Bonita where he would arrange the sale of anything left of value.

Meantime local pundits had to find a scapegoat for the failure of the Scepter and George Babcock fit the bill. But to find the reason for the Scepter's demise, a look at the Wilmington, Delaware papers gives the answer. A local mine promoter by the name of Professor Law (who may or may not have been in touch with Babcock) interested, among others, the failing wholesale grocery firm Quigley and Mullen to invest heavily in the mining investment. Winfred Quigley was offered the roll of General Manager and William Mullen's son became Treasurer. This enabled them to use moneys from their grocery enterprise to invest in the Scepter. Things got a little out of hand, and on behalf of Sceptre they signed notes of credit, backed by the grocery business, and when the notes became due, the Sceptre could not pay them, and neither could the grocery business which went belly up in November 1896, with astronomical unpaid bills.

Obviously, Babcock was not aware of the financial dealings of the grocery business or its connections to the Sceptre management in the east and was completely innocent – except with the feathering of his own nest with the mansion in Rock Creek. (With the company's failure, he lost the mansion, which was sold to an exclusive hunting club and burned down in the 1930's.) From the start the Scepter operated in debt only kept solvent by investment money from Colburn. Despite several searches, no photo of Babcock have been located.



**QUIGLEY, in livelier times
Photo: INTERNET**

I/We will be attending the 2021 Convention. Attached is my check (\$100 per person).

Name(s):

Address

Phone No;

E-mail address:

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## CONVENTION Sept 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 in KALISPELL

### HOST HOTEL:

**HILTON GARDEN INN**, 1840 U.S. Highway 93, Kalispell, MT. 59901 **406-756-4500**

STANDARD KING/DOUBLE QUEEN.....: \$79.00 + tax

**We suggest you book your accommodation as early as possible as we have only set aside 30 rooms at this reduced rate.**

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OUR 50th CONVENTION PRORAM

Fri, SEPT 10th 5 p.m: Meet Northwestern Museum, 124,Second Ave. E. 3rd floor.

Taco bar refreshments / licensed bar

7 p.m: Illustrated talk by historian/author **Paul Strong**

Sat, SEPT 11th 9.00 a.m Bus will be at hotel to take us to;

Guided tour of Conrad Mansion,

Demersville town site & cemetery

Other interesting historical town sites

Boxed lunch provided.

5.00 p.m. Open bar at Hilton Garden Inn

6:00 p.m. Banquet

7:15 p.m. Annual General Meeting (Voting on President for next 4 years)

7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker & entertainment (To be announced)

Sun, SEPT 12th

As you head south for I-90, and home, stop in at

FORT CONNAH, and see the improvements that have been made with a little help from M.G.T.P.S. since our visit there in 2010

Our Convention 50 hosts, **David & Tam Steindorf** will be there.

Please sign up, using the cut off at the top of this page.



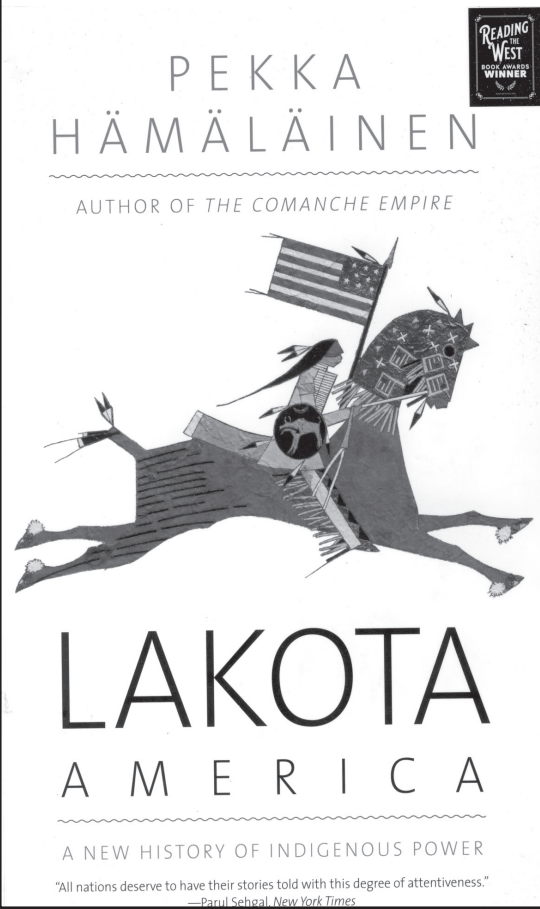
preserving history for the next generation

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

REVIEW:

LAKOTA AMERICA

by **PEKKA HAMALAINEN**



If you want to read the ultimate history of the seven council fires of the Sioux tribes from their early beginnings in the sixteenth century as a small nation, west of Lake Michigan, south of Lake Huron, to how they traded furs with the French voyageurs for guns, expanded onto the plains, secured horses and finally ruled the North American continent, this is the book that documents it all. Meticulously researched, Pekka Hamalainen, lays out the revisionist history of the Sioux tribe under the premise that the United States government, instead of trying to subdue the Sioux, should have treated them as a sovereign nation, the way they dealt with the English, French and Spanish inhabitants of the land, as the U.S. expanded. Unfortunately, the author totally ignores the fact that the Sioux bullied their way into dominance, sometimes using diplomacy. (often with underhanded trickery), sometimes brute force, which he explains away by the age old adage the Sioux adopted that if you kill one of my people, I may wait several years, but I am entitled to kill as many of your people as I chose to feel compensated for my loss. The Cheyenne nation, quickly saw the dominance of the Sioux and became allies rather than foes,

Finally, it all came to an end at the Little Big Horn, for although this was the ultimate native victory, it so enraged its enemy that the Lakota Nation was doomed thereafter. Somewhat dry, repetitive narrative. but well researched history.

TERRY HALDEN

"All nations deserve to have their stories told with this degree of attentiveness."
—Parul Sehgal, *New York Times*