Saddlebag Newsletter
April 2026

HAPPY EASTER

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Spiritwind2@hotmail.com

A supplement to the WWHA *Journal*
Available On-Line via www.wildwesthistory.org

Welcome to the Saddlebag Newsletter. Here is the latest information from WWHA. Previously posted Saddlebag newsletters will be found by date further down this section in the list of available newsletters. All earlier information will be retained for reference.

Welcome to our new members:

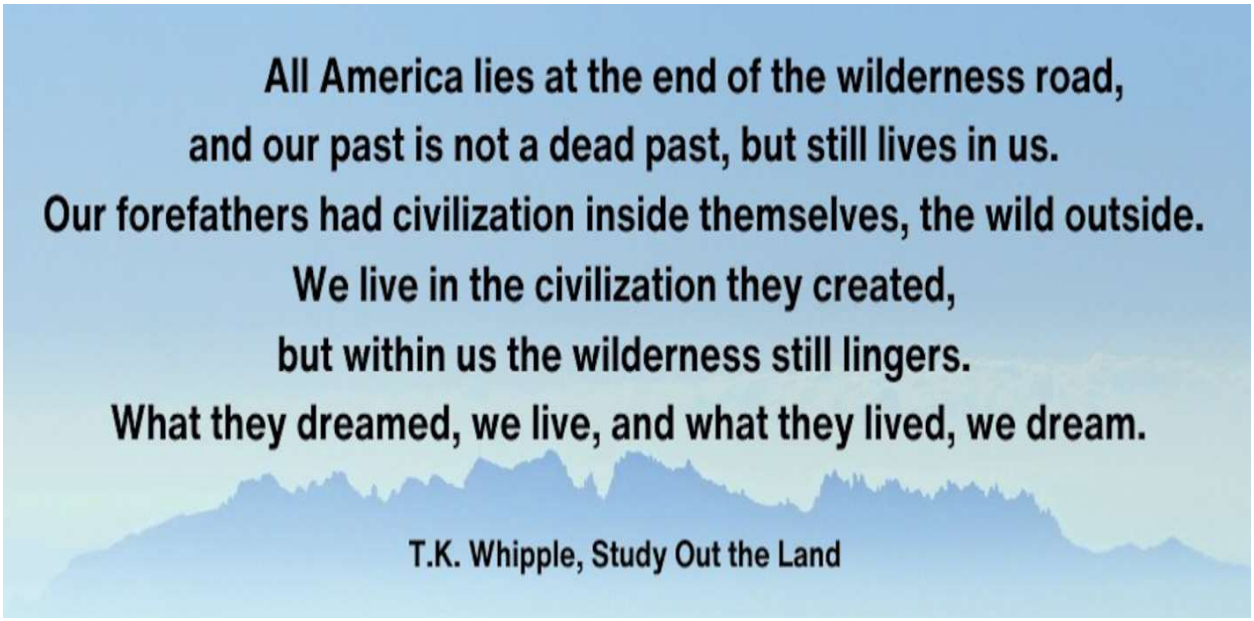
Curt Klebaum , Lone Pine, CA
Carlos Sanchez, Anaheim, CA
Karen Horn, Geneva, IL
John Louvier, Hineston, LA
Bob DeWitt, Fountain, CO
Cammad LLC, Josh Taylor,Conroe, TX Gunfighter
Lee Morgan, Lakewood, CO
Clifford Williams, Glendale, AZ
Jeffrey Volberg, Marsing, ID
Randy M. Johnson, Sierra Vista, AZ
Dolores Salars, Tucson, AZ

Special announcement

The Wild West History Association is deeply grateful to recognize an extraordinary act of generosity from one of our members, who has chosen to remain anonymous. This individual recently made a significant contribution of $30,000 in support of our mission. Such a gift plays a vital role in sustaining our programs, publications, and events, and ensures that the stories of the American West continue to be preserved and shared. We hope this inspiring example encourages others who value our work to consider supporting the Association in whatever way they can.

You can also help WWHA by purchasing some merchandise from the WWHA Country Store page, which is in the Journal & Saddlebag. and by donating to the silent & live auctions at the Albuquerque Roundup.

Birthday? Anniversary? Holiday? Thank You? Or, just because? Give the gift of a WWHA subscription. For only $60 you can give a digital subscription or go big and give one of the other membership options. The possibilities are endless. Check the “Join” page on our website wildwesthistory.org to see all the ways to join.



WWHA would like to thank all the members who are working so hard on the Albuquerque Roundup. Tim Hagaman, Roundup Chair, has been working since last year on the location, program, speakers, meals advertising, promotion and all things Roundup. At the risk of leaving out names, just let it be known that several members have been working on coordinating vendors, registration, auctions, marketing and advertising. Posters are being made that will be visible in all relevant locations. This is a team effort that could not be done without our dedicated volunteers who are helping to bring to you, a much-anticipated event.

We have an exciting announcement about our live auction.

The following gun is being donated by Kurt House. Copy of a Colt Third Model Dragoon with detachable shoulder stock, circa 1851-1886, as used in the Civil War and later, on the western frontier and as illustrated by artist Catlin while "shooting buffaloes". Some were made with the stock also serving as a canteen.
Appraised value - $2500-4500.00

Be sure to attend the Roundup to view and bid on this hot item.

The Tombstone Festival of Western Books was held Friday, March 13 at Schieffelin Hall in Tombstone, AZ. Sponsoring this annual event was the Cochise Corral of the Westerners. There were 35 fiction & non-fiction authors with tables, including some WWHA members, as well as several organizational groups. The Wild West History Association had a table there explaining the organization, as well as giving away advertising rack cards, journals, NOLA books, & book bags. Two new members were signed up. .A large crowd was in attendance, with Anne Hillerman & J A Jance as guest authors signing their books. Wyatt Earp & Geronimo even showed up!

Pictured are Ron Woggon, Jean Smith, & Chuck Smith. Photo courtesy of Bob Block..

Our members have been busy representing WWHA in various parts of the country. I received two write ups about Idaho and I decided to include them both. One is from Robert

Sobba who is one of the organizers of the event and the other is from Gary Ohls who attended the event for the first time.

From Robert Sobba

The Idaho Wild West Seminar was another success with over 160 in attendance, we had people from Idaho, Oregon, Washington California and Utah. In the week before the event I had three speakers cancel because of being hospitalized and finding new speakers was a chore and our agenda changed about ten times, but despite all the problems it was a great event.Doc Shores came through with some poetry and another program to fill in as I was unsure of what to expect from the new speakers.

Nola and Gerald Schaefer

Bill Bentenson presented about weapons used by the Cassidy gang that included a display of similar weapons. Fort Boise Garrison had an excellent program about how Nineteenth Century soldiers dressed and the gear they took into battle.

Jeff Wade discussed the activities of various Idaho Vigilantes groups. Mike Youngman had a good program about Wyatt Earp. A program about early Idaho settlers was well received.

In addition to “Doc Shores” Board member Gary Ohs attended and was kept busy promoting WWHA and several people expressed interest in becoming members. We are grateful for the support of WWHA and the Owyhee County Museum.

Bill Bentenson

Gary Ohls

From Gary Ohls

Murphy, Idaho Regional Roundup

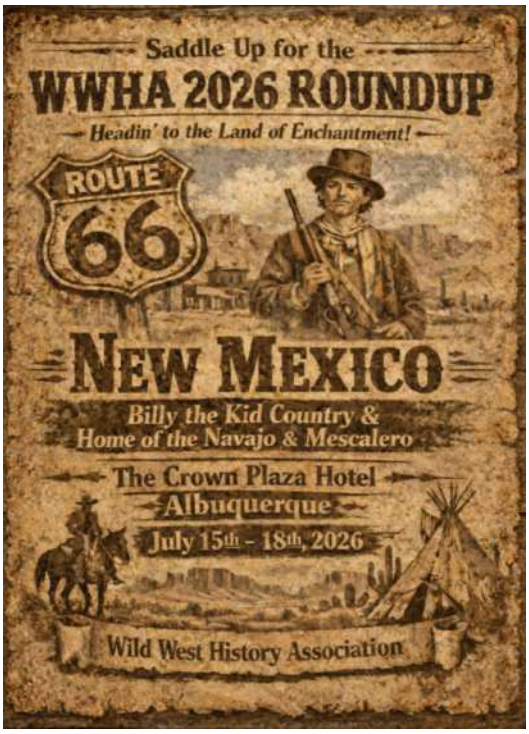
ON March 14, 2026, the Owyhee County Historical Society hosted its annual Wild West seminar at the Owyhee County Museum in Murphy, Idaho. The annual seminar also serves as a regional roundup supported by WWHA. The annual seminar is only one of the several events sponsored by the Owyhee Historical Society at the museum, but it is among the most popular. The historical society and museum have a strong following of active participants with about 150 enthusiasts attending the Wild West seminar this year. Among the seminar's organizing officials is WWHA's own Robert Sobba, who has consistently provided leadership for the program.

The seminar included presentations on gun history, Idaho vigilantes, and the historic gold rush in nearby Dry Creek Canyon. The Fort Boise Garrison reenactors gave a fascinating and detailed talk about nineteenth century infantry and cavalry in the West. Our own WWHA members, Bill Betensen, Mike Youngman, and Gerald Schaefer (Doc Shores) also made interesting and informative presentations. Bill Betensen talked about the Cassidy Gang and their weapons, Mike Youngman discussed Wyatt Earp in Idaho, and Doc Shores read some of his poetry and discussed Confederate sympathizers in Idaho during the gold rush period. The entire program was interesting, informative, and most enjoyable.

WWHA board member Gary J. Ohls attended the event and gave a pitch for membership in the WWHA as did fellow board member Doc Shores. WWHA also established a display table with back copies of the Journal and advertisement brochures for interested parties. Numerous seminar attendees stopped by the table for a talk and to pick up some of the materials…including application forms. If fact, we ran out of just about everything. There seemed to be considerable interest in joining our association. Hopefully, we will see improvement in our membership numbers as a result. Certainly, the enthusiasm exhibited by the seminar attendees would fit nicely with that of the WWHA membership.

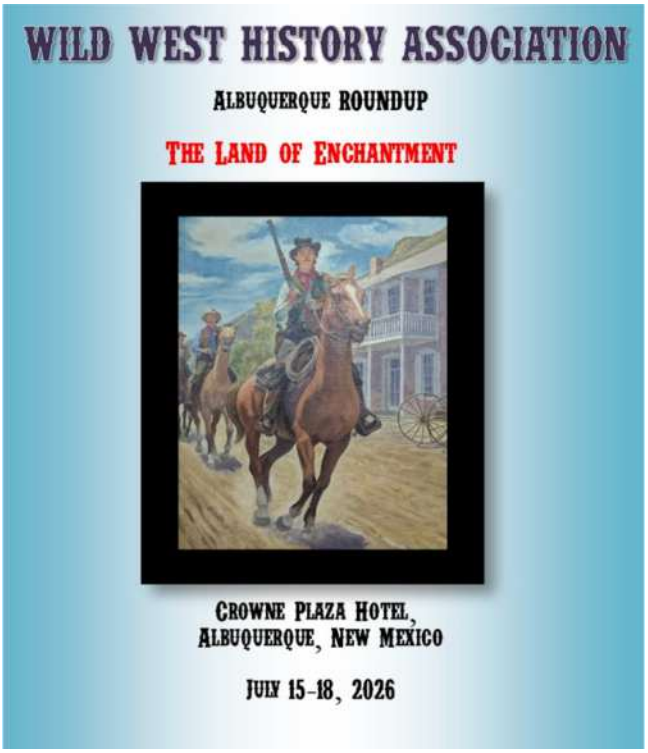
Roundup video ad for Albuquerque. Click link to watch. It has been shared on at least 4 Facebook pages. Feel free to share it on your pages, public or private pages where you think people interested in Wild West history or New Mexico history will see it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pstA83NrPg



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Go to our webpage for all the reservation, registration, vendor information and program schedule.



Wild West History Association
YouTube
Learn More About Wild West History

April 2026
Released Every Friday After 3:00PM EST

PLEASE! LIKE, COMMENT AND SUBSCRIBE
(This Channel Helps to Fund the WWHA)

April 3rd
Horsehead Crossing, Where the Old West Came Alive: Cowboys, Comanche, Apache, Butterfield Stage, Goodnight-Loving, US Army, Wagon Trains, Postal Service. Tall Men with Long Guns.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6U1ZYhrpdYw

April 10th
The Two Crockett Women That Vanished Into The Shadows
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8d2dY3kpIA

April 17th
The Preacher Escapes, a Rancher Massacred. Comanches Stuffed His Body With Bibles. Wild Texas 1871.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e30wtrnKWoA

April 24th
Bob Boze Bell. Tracing The Truth On Doc Holliday & Wyatt Earp. We Need To Tell Better Stories.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gV1u9DoDS68

Wild West History Association

YouTube SHORTS

(Less Than 3 Minutes)

Learn More About *the* Wild West History

April 2026

Released Every Tuesday After 3:00PM EST

PLEASE! LIKE, COMMENT AND SUBSCRIBE
(This Channel Helps to Fund the WWHA)

April 7th

Mountain Home Massacre: Four Dowdy Children Murdered on Texas Frontier. Bodies Buried With Arrows.

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/IjKVG-X3KJI

April 14th

How to Read Unreadable Cemetery Headstones. Bring History Back to Life!

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/nipdjuDuSzw

April 21st

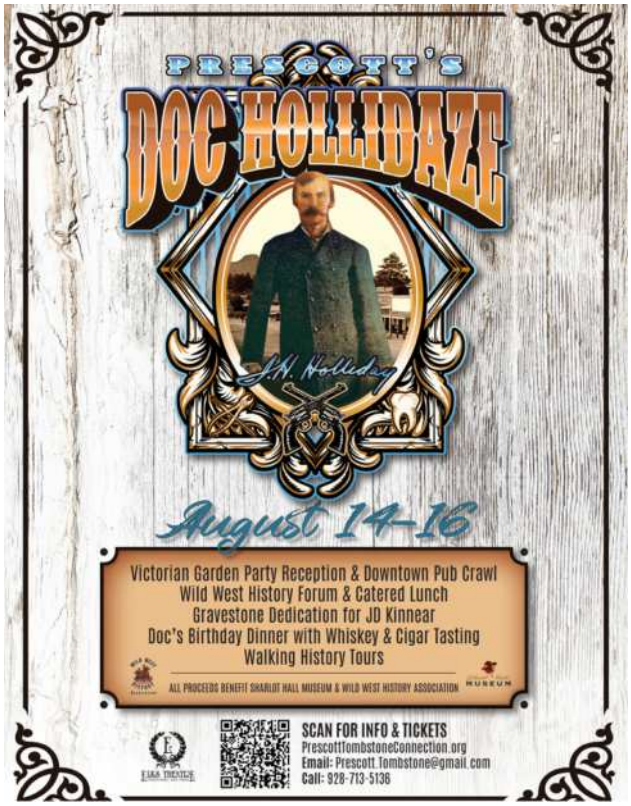
Billy Dixon's Impossible Shot at Adobe Walls. The Gunshot No One Believed… Rifle a Big 50 Sharps

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/BJY6n3GHBFM

April 28th

The Deadly Ambush of Texas Ranger James Callahan. Tracking Callahan's Killers to Their Graves.

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/fhLrXhV1JTk



Prescott's Doc HolliDaze Weekend, August 14-16, 2026

Join the gathering in downtown Prescott, Arizona, for Prescott's Doc HolliDaze weekend, August 14-16, 2026! The celebration is designed to promote the history of Prescott with entertaining and engaging education and to provide a fun weekend of events for both locals and out of town attendees. A discounted All Weekend Pass includes entrance to all events for $165, and tickets for individual events are available as well at www.PrescottTombstoneConnection.org.

Begin the weekend with a Victorian Garden Party at Sharlot Hall Museum on Friday, August 14th, beginning at 5:00 PM, followed by a downtown Saloon Crawl. Our "Welcome to the Weekend Reception"! Meet your fellow history enthusiasts and enjoy some light bites and music by Chip Hanna while you stroll the 4 acres of gardens and historic buildings of this iconic museum. The Prescott Regulators and their Shady Ladies will entertain with a "Doc" skit! Then take a tour of several local watering holes. Each guest will receive a drink ticket in the form of a wooden nickel good for one special "Doc Drink" offered by one of the participating bars. Western or period attire is encouraged!

On Saturday, August 15th, from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, learn some fascinating history at the Wild West History Forum at the fabulous Elks Theatre! Scheduled speakers for the History Forum include Roy Young, Mark Boardman, Peter Brand, Michael Paul Mihaljeich and Victoria Wilcox. Seating for the History Forum is General Admission, and the concession stand will be open. There will be a lunch break from 12:00 to 1:30. A catered lunch will be available at the Hassayampa Inn's Marina Room, with sandwiches and salads of your choice. Meet the History Forum speakers and enjoy a talk by Bradley G. Courtney on Doc's paramour, "Big Nose" Kate. After the History Forum on Saturday, there will be a grave marker dedication for JD Kinnear's grave at the Pioneer's Home Cemetery at 4:00 PM. There is no charge to attend the dedication. The grave marker has been arranged and funded by the Wild West History Association.

Doc's Birthday Party and Whiskey/Cigar Tasting will take place on Saturday, August 15th, from 6:00-9:00 PM at the Marina Room at the Hassayampa Inn, with a buffet dinner and some delicious birthday cake! Enjoy dancing under the stars to the music of Sky Daddy Conwell. Meet Doc Holliday (impersonator Cory Allen from Tombstone) and wish him a happy birthday! Yes, he shares a birthday with the original. A selection of whiskeys will be provided for sampling, and if you find one you like, full size drinks will be available at the no-host bar. Learn to play faro and try one of the selection of cigars presented by Ol' Havana Cigar Bar. Period or Western attire is encouraged!

The American Frontier History Association

(Formerly Order of the Indian Wars)

P.O. Box 21

Emerson, NJ 0763

Assembly Update Announcement

Friends, February 19, 2026

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have had to make a change in plans for this year's Assembly. After two months' effort, we have been unable to secure hotel space in either Billings, Montana or Sheriden, Wyoming to support our planned Little Bighorn tour. Every suitable hotel was either already booked, undergoing renovation, or in the process of being sold.

Therefore, we have brought forward our planned 2027 Assembly to this year. The 2026 Assembly will now be: **"Remember the Alamo," The Texas Independence Trail**. The dates will remain September 17-20. We have secured hotel and bus commitments and are finalizing prices for the various events. Check our website (www.frontierhistory.net) for more details.

David L. Wood and Carlos Morales Wood: History Repeats Itself, First as Tragedy, and Again as Tragedy

Daniel Buck

Newspaperman David L. Wood emigrated from Texas to Mexico, where in 1858 he was shot dead. His grandson, newspaperman Carlos Morales Wood, emigrated from Mexico to the United States, where in Texas in 1914 he was mortally wounded.

A pioneer journalist in 1830s and 1840s Illinois and Texas, David L. Wood is recognized by the *Handbook of Texas Online*. His grandson, Carlos Morales Wood, a journalist in early 1900s New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas, is little known -- if known at all, for having been killed by Texas Rangers in Marfa, Texas. Until recently, no one was aware that Carlos was David's grandson.

David L. Wood migrated from Illinois in early 1839 to Fort Bend County, Texas, where he founded the *Richmond Telescope and Texas Literary Register*, a weekly "zealously devoted to the support of the great principles of Republican Liberty and the encouragement Literature and science." He soon moved to Fayette County. In early 1840, Wood published a prank letter in the Austin *City Gazette,* claiming that Davy Crockett had surrendered at the Alamo and was "now working as a slave laborer in a Mexican mine."

That same year, Wood served in the Army of the Republic of Rio Grande during a brief unsuccessful separatist movement in northern Mexico. In February 1841, now back in Fayette County, he married Sophronia Virginia Primm, a biracial woman, the daughter of William Primm, a Texas plantation owner and enslaver, and his manumitted common-law wife Celia. Although miscegenation laws were not consistently enforced in the Republic or State of Texas, Wood and his family felt vulnerable and in 1856 decamped to more egalitarian climes in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Little is known of the family's time in Mexico, except one fatal drama: In 1858, Wood accused Sophronia of infidelity with a house servant and threatened to divorce her and seek custody of their children. Alarmed, she asked her brother, James B. L. Primm, for help. He and their brother-in-law Francis Reast came down from Brownsville to help resolve matters. What happened next was discovered only a few years ago, by Reynosa anthropologist Martín Salinas Rivera, who reviewed the judicial file: On the evening of 11 September 1858, a confrontation turned into a gunfight, 11 shots in all. Wood fell dead. After a two-week investigation, a judge ruled that Primm and Reast had acted in self-defense. Sophronia stayed in Mexico with her children. Years later, she returned to Fayette County, where she died in 1880.

In 1867, Sophronia's youngest child Laura Wood, now in her twenties, married Marcos Morales in Matamoros, Tamaulipas. The third of their six children was Carlos Morales, born 20 November 1874.

Virtually nothing is known of Carlos's early life. He appeared, as Carlos Morales Wood, in Mexico City periodicals in September 1901, age 26, identified among members of the Guild of Lithographers, Printers, and Book Binders at rally in Monterrey, Nuevo León, organized by political boss Bernardo Reyes's Club Círculo Unión y Progeso. The rally supported Mexican president Porfirio Díaz, indicating that at this point Wood's politics were establishmentarian. By March 1904, Carlos Morales Wood was in the United States, publishing a heartfelt ode to his mother Laura in the Santa Fe, New Mexico, *La Voz del Pueblo*.

Two months later, now 175 miles north in Raton as Carlos M. Wood, he launched a Spanish-language weekly, *El Relámpago*. Surviving issues from its several-month run show Wood as a stalwart of the Progressive wing of the Republican party, backing Theodore Roosevelt, and still supporting Porfirio Díaz. (Roosevelt and Díaz were cordial allies.) The news sections paid sparse attention to local issues, like New Mexico statehood, and inexplicably devoted much space to the Russo-Japanese War. A small story about defense funds being organized for a young Mexican facing a murder prosecution in Texas was a singular hint of social-justice concerns.

Wood abandoned *El Relámpago* that fall, and for the next decade led a peripatetic and star-crossed life. Peripatetic in that he was affiliated in one capacity or another with at least seven southwestern newspapers: in New Mexico, *La Voz del Pueblo* (1904) and *La Unión Social (1914?)* Santa Fe*, El Relámpago*, Raton (1904), and *El Independiente*, Las Vegas (1904-1906); in Colorado, *El Progreso*, Trinidad (1905) and *El Defensor del Pueblo*, San Luis (1908); in Texas, *Pátria Mexicana*, Valentine (1914); and perhaps a couple of others. His frequent moves might be the reason his name has not registered, except in reference to his violent death, even among Spanish-language press historians.

EL RELAMPAGO.

Periodico Semanario, Liberal, Defensor del Pueblo Neo-mexicano, Noticioso, de Variedades

THE PRICE SHOE & CLOTHING CO

NUESTRO CANDIDATO a la Presidencia de la Republica.

RATON LUMBER Cia.

Raton, N. M. Mayo 7 1904.

PALACE HOTEL

Raton, N. M. Mayo 7 de 1904.

BANCO DE HERRAR.

Harper Hyroll Props.

GERMAN BEER HALL

CANTINA.

Raton, N. Mex.

GABINETE

Front page of 28 May 1904 issue of Carlos Morales Wood's first known newspaper, *El Relámpago*, Raton, NM. Credit: *Hispanic America Newspapers, 1808-1980*, Readex.com.

Star-crossed in that he was jailed for adultery (twice, in Colorado and New Mexico), for sneaking into the home of a married woman he was wooing, and for assaulting an angry reader. His transgressions drew brickbats from his Spanish-language press rivals. One called him a “jailbird” and another headlined, “The Junior Hack Writer in Disgrace.

By 1914, Wood had gone to Valentine, Jeff Davis County, Texas, far from his New Mexico and Colorado haunts. Valentine sits some 4,400 feet high in a crusty, semi-arid basin bracketed by the Davis Mountains on the east and the Sierra Vieja on the west. A railroad junction of several hundred people, the town had been erected in 1882 by a Southern Pacific work crew, and served as a ranching emporium, water stop, and cattle shipping point. In 1910, the county hosted 1,678 people and 74,961 cattle, a one to 44 ratio. Wood installed himself as publisher-editor of *Pátria Mexicana*, run off on a borrowed press in nearby Marfa, in Presidio County.

By the mid-1910s the Mexican Revolution was under full steam, bringing border raids, rustling (by free-lance Hispanic and Anglo rustlers, encouraged by cattle-hungry Anglo ranchers), banditry, Texas Ranger retaliations, and refugee diasporas along the Rio Grande scant miles away. Wood’s social-justice sentiments were aroused.

A warrant was issued for Wood’s arrest, possibly for criminal libel, a vague but handy cudgel used by thin-skinned local authorities before First Amendment guarantees were extended to the states. Texas Rangers H.L. Roberson and Ira W. Cline served the warrant. Roberson, notorious for his violent reputation, was said to have killed 38 men, a number certainly exaggerated but one to which we might assume he offered no demur.

Roberson’s report: “June 22 [1914] Scouted from Marfa to Valentine with warrant for the arrest of Carlos Morales Wood. Trailed him back to Marfa. While resisting arrest was killed by Cline and myself.” The round trip from Marfa to Valentine was about 70 miles, so likely everyone was traveling by motor vehicle, perhaps the Ford Model T, handy on rutted rural roads. “Resisting arrest” was a capacious euphemism of the day, excusing a range of behavior, including murder.

The newspapers, including reactionary elements of the Spanish-language press, blamed Wood’s death on Wood: for having incited “prejudice among the Mexicans against the American

people in general and the Rangers in particular"; having "accused the rangers, soldiers, and Americans . . . of being cut throats and thieves"; and having "attacked rough-shod [a politician] in an editorial article." They also haphazardly located the death scene: he was shot while entering his house, in front of the Palace Drugstore, or in the door of the post office.

The judicial inquiry was brief and uneventful, possibly no more than a grand jury no-bill, unclear. Borderland folklorist Joyce E. Means later collected two stories of Wood, recalled as "the Mexican." From Mance Bomar: "They saw the Mexican go by Winn's Busy Bee Confection and past Mack's drugstore." He "was shot nine times and didn't have time to shoot back. I just wondered what his name was." From Robert Russell: "The Mexican came to the post office to get his mail. They may have told him to surrender in English. The man didn't even have a pocket knife."

Last fall, the Acervo Histórico Diplomático in Mexico City turned up a file prepared by Fernando Serrano, the Mexican consul in Marfa, who investigated Wood's death. Serrano's 1914 report clarifies the date and time of death: Wood was "gravely wounded" by "four bullets" about 9:00 pm, 22 June, and expired at 4:00 am, 23 June. More importantly, Serrano included a statement – never before published -- by Presidio County sheriff and ex-Texas Ranger Milton B. Chastain, who said that Roberson and Cline had killed Wood "with malicious premeditation."

More details from an unnamed eyewitness: "With some of his friends, Morales was walking along the sidewalk opposite the Post Office and told them to wait for him there, as he was going to pick up his mail. After he left and headed to where his friends were halfway down the street, he was called by the Rangers, and then Morales backed up and headed to the place where the voice had come from. Immediately, the Rangers, from behind a car, fired shots at him, and as Morales fell, he dropped his pistol." Serrano lamented that "if a Mexican were to testify against the Rangers . . . his statement would have no weight, and he would undoubtedly expose himself to death at the hands of the Rangers. I also wish to inform you that the Ranger, Ira Cline, according to confidential information provided is an individual with a bad record and should be feared."

Justice of the Peace Lester S. Smith disclosed that Wood had no family in Marfa, that he had worked on newspapers in Eagle Pass and San Antonio, and that his mother lived in Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico.

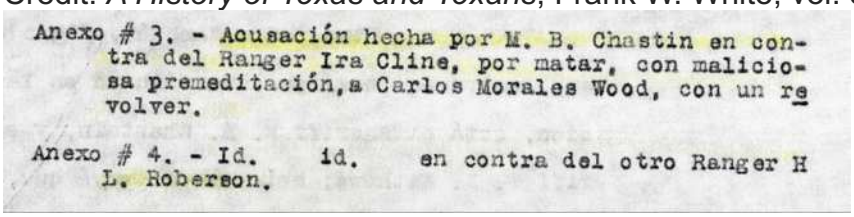
Local rancher Riley Robert Smith told Serrano that Wood had been distributing "literature . . . calculated to excite the Mexican people of Pilares, to rise up against officials, that is, the State Rangers, and produce an illegal tumult." Serrano also reported that Wood's newspaper had "severely attacked the Texas Rangers for the murder of Lino Baeze."

Baeze was a young Mexican outlaw accused, some say wrongly, of the 1913 ambush killing of Customs Inspector Jack Howard, who had been in a posse escorting Chico Cano, a much-wanted rustler and brigand-of-fortune variously in the service of insurrectionist Pancho Villa and presidents Francisco Madero and Venustiano Carranza but mostly allied with himself. Baeze was fatally shot on an island in the Rio Grande in early April 1914 while being pursued by Texas Cattle Raisers' Association chief inspector John R. Banister, sheriff Chastain, and others.

In January 1915, Roberson, now working as foreman of the T. O. Ranch in Chihuahua, fatally shot popular rancher H. F. Boykin during a stockyard squabble in Sierra Blanca, Texas. An

errant bullet killed Walter Sitter, a nineteen-year-old cowboy in Roberson's employ. (Walter was the son of Customs Inspector Joe Sitter, who a few months later was himself killed, in a canyon off the Rio Grande, by the Chico Cano gang.) Roberson weathered several trials, with progressively more agreeable verdicts, murder, manslaughter, and acquittal. He was never tried for killing the teenager.

Milton G. Chastain, Presidio County sheriff and former Texas Ranger, told the Mexican Consul in Marfa that the killing of Carlos Morales Wood was "malicious premeditation." Credit: *A History of Texas and Texans*, Frank W. White, vol. 5, 1914.


Anexo # 3. - Acusación hecha por M. B. Chastin en contra del Ranger Ira Cline, por matar, con maliciosa premeditación, a Carlos Morales Wood, con un revolver.

Anexo # 4. - Id. id. en contra del otro Ranger H L. Roberson.

Mexican Consul 1914 report reference to statement by Milton G, Chastain that killing of Carlos Morales Wood was "malicious premeditation." Credit: AREM, L-E.-722, Acervo Histórico Diplomático, Mexico City, Mexico.

In 1923, now a stock inspector with the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Roberson and his partner, veteran lawman Dave Allison, were lounging in the lobby of the Gaines Hotel in Seminole, Texas, on the eve of testifying at a grand jury investigation of two cattle-poaching ranchers, Tom Ross and Milt Good. Suddenly, Ross and Good barged into the lobby and fatally shot Roberson and Allison. Both men pled self-defense, claiming that Roberson had been threatening them, a not implausible notion. Roberson's killing of Wood and Boykin, along with a perhaps apocryphal anecdote of having shot a Black railroad conductor and tossed him off a train, were offered by the defense as evidence of his homicidal inclinations. No dice. Ross and Good were convicted and imprisoned. They both soon escaped. On the run, Ross murdered a Chinese cook in Canada and a ranch manager in Montana. Overcome with guilt by the second atrocity, he committed suicide. Good was recaptured, serving a decade more time before being sprung by Texas governor and pardon enthusiast Miriam "Ma" Ferguson.

Milton B. Chastain had died in a fall off a windmill on his ranch in 1917 and was replaced as Presidio County sheriff by the man he had accused of malicious, premeditated homicide, Ira W. Cline. Cline's later police career had its bumps. While serving as deputy constable in El Paso in 1927, he and two colleagues were accused of plotting to kidnap "Mexican revolutionaries and shanghai them into Mexico," where presumably they would be shot. He was not prosecuted. The following year he was prosecuted on multiple charges of extorting money from El Paso sex workers but was acquitted.

Riley Robert Smith -- Wood's bad-character reference -- and his wife were murdered in 1934 by a recently sacked cowboy, Antonio Carrasco, who for good measure burned their house down. Carrasco admitted the murders but said "the house and bodies were burned by accident." He went to the electric chair.

Cline died in El Paso in 1965, age 82, the last link in a several decade cycle of mayhem, murder, and tragedy.

Daniel Buck is a member of the Journal *editorial board.*

WILD WEST HISTORY ASSOCIATION

COUNTRY STORE

Grey Fleece Vest XL, 2XL $40

Grey Blanket In Pouch 40 X 56 $30

Black Sweatshirt Hooded &Full zip S, M, XL, 2XL, 3XL $55

Short Sleeve Denim Shirt Faded Blue: S, M, XL Ink Blue: M, L, XL, 3XL $40

Bella Heather V-Neck M, L, XL, 2XL $25

Pocket Polo Red: XL, 2XL, 4XL Blue: XL, 2XL, 3XL $35

Ladies V-Neck Front or Side Logo Peach, Lavender, Fuschia Email for Sizes $25

Ladies Knit Black: S, M, L Blue: L, XL, 2XL $40

Beige Tote Bag $15

Round Neck Tee Front or Side Logo Grey, Red, Sand Email for Sizes $25

Key Chain $4

Rawhide Money Clip $20

Spatula $25

Camo Mesh Cap $25

Pink Camo Mesh Cap $25

Guide Hat Black or Khaki $25

Prices include free shipping & a WWHA Button

To place an order, email: crystalkate@gmail.com

or, mail your order to:
Jean E Smith WWHA Treasurer
993 E Jennings Street Safford, AZ 85546

WWHA Button Freebie

The Texas Center at Schreiner University in Kerrville, has been posting short stories about our heroes from the Tx Revolution.

Follow up from our story last month about members Roy Young and Madison Harrell at the cemetery of their 4th great grandfathers.

MATHEW CALDWELL

Mathew Caldwell was one of the most prominent of the early pioneers of Texas and one of the bravest soldiers who fought in the struggle for Texas independence. He was born in Kentucky in 1798. When he was a young man he removed to Missouri where he remained until about 1829. At that time he decided to seek a home in Texas and came to the colony of Green DeWitt. Soon after his arrival he settled at Gonzales, which was then one of the most exposed frontier settlements of Texas. The country was wild and unsettled and the pioneers were constantly exposed to attacks from hostile Indians. Caldwell soon became known as one of the most daring Indian fighters on the frontier and took part in many expeditions against the marauding bands that frequently attacked the settlements.

When the difficulties between Texas and Mexico began to assume a serious aspect, Caldwell was among the first to take an active part in the resistance to Mexican authority. When the Mexican authorities attempted to take from the people of Gonzales the small cannon which had been furnished them for defense against the Indians, Caldwell took part in the resistance which resulted in the **battle of Gonzales**, October 2, 1835, the first engagement of the Texas Revolution.

After the battle of Gonzales he joined the Texan forces which marched to attack the Mexican troops at San Antonio de Béxar. He took a prominent part in the siege and in the final assault upon the city. In the fighting which followed he displayed great courage and coolness and won the confidence of both officers and men.

When the convention assembled at Old Washington, March 1, 1836*, to consider the condition of Texas and determine what course should be pursued, Caldwell was chosen a delegate from the Municipality of Gonzales. He attended the convention and was among those who signed the **Texas Declaration of Independence**, adopted March 2, 1836.

After the adjournment of the convention he returned to the army and continued in the service during the remainder of the revolution. He participated in a number of engagements with the Mexican forces and rendered valuable service to the cause of Texas independence.

After the establishment of the Republic of Texas he continued to reside at Gonzales and took part in the public affairs of the country. During the difficulties with the Mexicans which followed the revolution he again entered the service and was commissioned a colonel in the Texan forces.

In 1842, when General Adrian Woll invaded Texas and captured San Antonio, Colonel Caldwell took an active part in the movement to drive the Mexican troops from the country. He

participated in the expedition which pursued the Mexicans after they evacuated the place, carrying with him a number of prisoners taken when he captured San Antonio.
Colonel Caldwell soon returned to his home at Gonzales where he died, December 28, 1842.
Colonel Caldwell was described by those who knew him as being a brave and fearless officer and a man of spotless integrity.
When a new county was created from Gonzales County in 1848 it was named **Caldwell County**, in honor of Mathew Caldwell, a brave officer of the Republic and a signer of the Declaration of Texas Independence.
- from "The Men Who Made Texas Free" by Sam Houston Dixon (1924)
He was called "Old Paint" Caldwell because of the splattering of white in his dark hair and whiskers.

Speaking of whiskers:

HAPPY EASTER