Saddlebag Newsletter

Roy B. Young, Editor
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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.

If you have Wild West news, please contact the editor at the e-mail address shown at the top of the *Saddlebag* page. We reserve the right to include or not include any materials submitted to us.

February 16, 2023

The March 2023 issue of the WWHA *Journal* will be mailed to the membership the week of March 5th. It will contain articles on Josephine "Sadie" Marcus Earp, by Peter Brand; one on George Heart and Wyatt Earp, by Roy B. Young, plus the on-going series of eight installments on the Texas Rangers, written by Mike Cox and an interview with author/historian David Guyton. Additionally, this issue will contain the latest information on the Roundup, letters to the editor, news and announcements, book reviews and notices of new books "Off the Press."

Doc Holliday YouTube Series

WWHA's, Victoria Wilcox and Gary Roberts "Fireside Stories," nine-part YouTube series on Doc Holliday, will end with the last video on March 1. This is a must see and a keeper for posterity. Our next episodes will feature Casey Tefertiller, John Boessenecker and more. Keep checking our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/c/WildWestHistoryAssociation/videos or, simply Google Wild West History Association YouTube.

Whether you are author, writer, researcher, historian, or just a student of the Wild West, this is a must-see series from the authorities on Doc Holliday. If you subscribe to the WWHA YouTube Channel **(FREE)**, you will receive a notice each time a video is released.

WWHA Facebook Page

Good news! The WWHA Facebook page now has over 13,000 registered members. Many are regularly active while some are only occasional. If you've not been to our Facebook page, please Google: Wild West History Association Facebook. Lots of great "stuff" to enjoy and learn, plus interesting discussions about everything in the "West" that was "Wild."

NOTE: New Article on O.C. Hanks

A new article on the life of O.C. Hanks by William A. Mills appears at the end of this issue of the WWHA Saddlebag newsletter. It contains a quite thorough look at the life and misdeeds of Hanks, including a number of interesting illustrations. Why not read it right now?

~ Dates to Remember ~

WWHA Six-Shooter Awards
Nominations for the 2022 Awards to be presented at the 2023 Roundup are due no later than April 15th.
See the criteria and where to send nominations on pages 4, 5, and 6 of the December 2022 issue of WWHA *Journal*

Please note an address change for article nominations:
Dennis Garstang, 6005 NW 103rd, Kansas City, MO 64154

ROUNDUP NEWS

The 16th Annual WWHA Roundup is fast approaching, set for July 12-15, 2023, at the world-famous Menger Hotel in San Antonio. The Menger is taking guest room reservations now. Ask for "Wild West History Association" guest room rates for a considerable discount.

Address: 204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX 78205
Phone: (210) 223-4361

The Roundup registration form is now available on the WWHA website: www.wildwesthistory.org. The form may be submitted directly from the website to our treasurer, Jean Smith, or downloaded and mailed. Additionally, a copy of the registration form will be in the March WWHA *Journal* and may be copied and mailed with appropriate fees.

The Vendor form and information on selling or displaying at the Roundup may also be obtained on the website.

The March *Journal* contains a Roundup promo with a list of speakers, panels, special events and things to "see and do" while in San Antonio.

WWHA Marks Another Grave

O.C. Hanks, Member of the "Wild Bunch" has grave marked in San Antonio

On a cold, rainy and blustery day in San Antonio, Saturday, January 23, 2023, WWHA marked another grave. This time, the grave was that of Orlando Camilla "Deaf Charlie" Hanks. Hanks was at one time a member of the "Wild Bunch," but was killed in a gunfight in San Antonio, Texas on April 16, 1902. He is buried in "City Cemetery No. 4," one of 29 cemeteries maintained by the City of San Antonio.

NOTE: A new article on the life of O.C. Hanks by William A. Mills appears on the WWHA website: www.wildwesthistory.org. A program on Hanks will be presented by Bradley Nevill at the WWHA Roundup in San Antonio, July 12-15, 2023.

WWHA Members at O.C. Hanks Grave Marking Ceremony, June 28, 2023
(l to r) Chuck Parsons, Donna Harrell, Pat Parsons, Dave George, Pam Potter, Charlotte Steele, Elizabeth Weathers, Paul Marquez, Jim Bailey, Roy Young, Kurt House, Bradley Nevill, Tim Hagaman, with Alan Blanchette kneeling in front of the new marker.
(Photo by Eddie Lanham who also made a video of the event)

Photos from the Hanks Tombstone Dedication

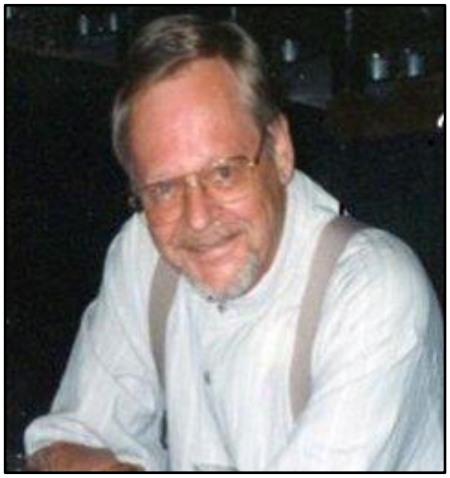
Chuck and Pat Parsons
Chuck was instrumental in organizing the event
(Photo courtesy Pam Potter with enhancement William A. Mills)

WWHA Videographer Eddie Lanham with some of the crowd listening to the program
(Photo Courtesy Donna Harrell)

WWHA Member Bradley Nevill, who did the research and found the Hanks grave, gave a history of Hanks
(Photo courtesy Donna Harrell)

The unveiling of the new tombstone: l to r, Dave George, Pam Potter, Kurt House, Bradley Nevill, Eddie Lanham, Roy Young
(Photo courtesy Donna Harrell)

Death of WWHA Charter Member, Robert R. Ernst



We regret to announce the death of WWHA charter member "Bob" Ernst.

Robert R. "Bob" Ernst of Perkins Oklahoma passed away peacefully in his home with family by his side on February 4, 2023 at the age of 80. Robert was born on December 11, 1942 to Robert B. and Constance F. Ernst in Stillwater Minnesota and moved to Cambridge Minnesota at an early age. During his high school years his love for law enforcement began. He married the love of his life Sandra I. Sweitzer on June 26, 1965 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Bob began his law enforcement career with the Saginaw County Sheriff's Office and later at the Buena Vista Police Department in Michigan and moved up the ranks and ended his law enforcement career as a Detective Sergeant. He and Sandra later moved back to Minnesota and created JB Enterprises which promoted and held Country & Western shows during the 1970s and 1980s. He has numerous pictures with some of the great singers from Conway Twitty, Leroy Van Dyke, Barbara Mandrell, Faron Young, Ed Bruce and Sylvia just to name a few.

Missing law enforcement, Bob started his passion for historical research involving law enforcement and the Old West. His research took him on travels all over the United States. He later moved his family to Stillwater Oklahoma to be closer to his research. He authored and published over fifty journal articles in such publications as *Oklahombres, NOLA Quarterly, WOLA Journal, Frontier Times* and WWHA *Journal.*

Bob authored and published two books: *Killin' Cops and Robbin' Banks The Life and Crimes of Lawrence DeVol* and *Deadly Affrays The Violent Deaths of U.S. Marshals,* which told the story of 288 U.S Marshals killed in the line of duty. He spent over 20 years documenting the line of duty deaths of the U.S Marshals. He was working on a second installment to Deadly Affrays at the time of his death.

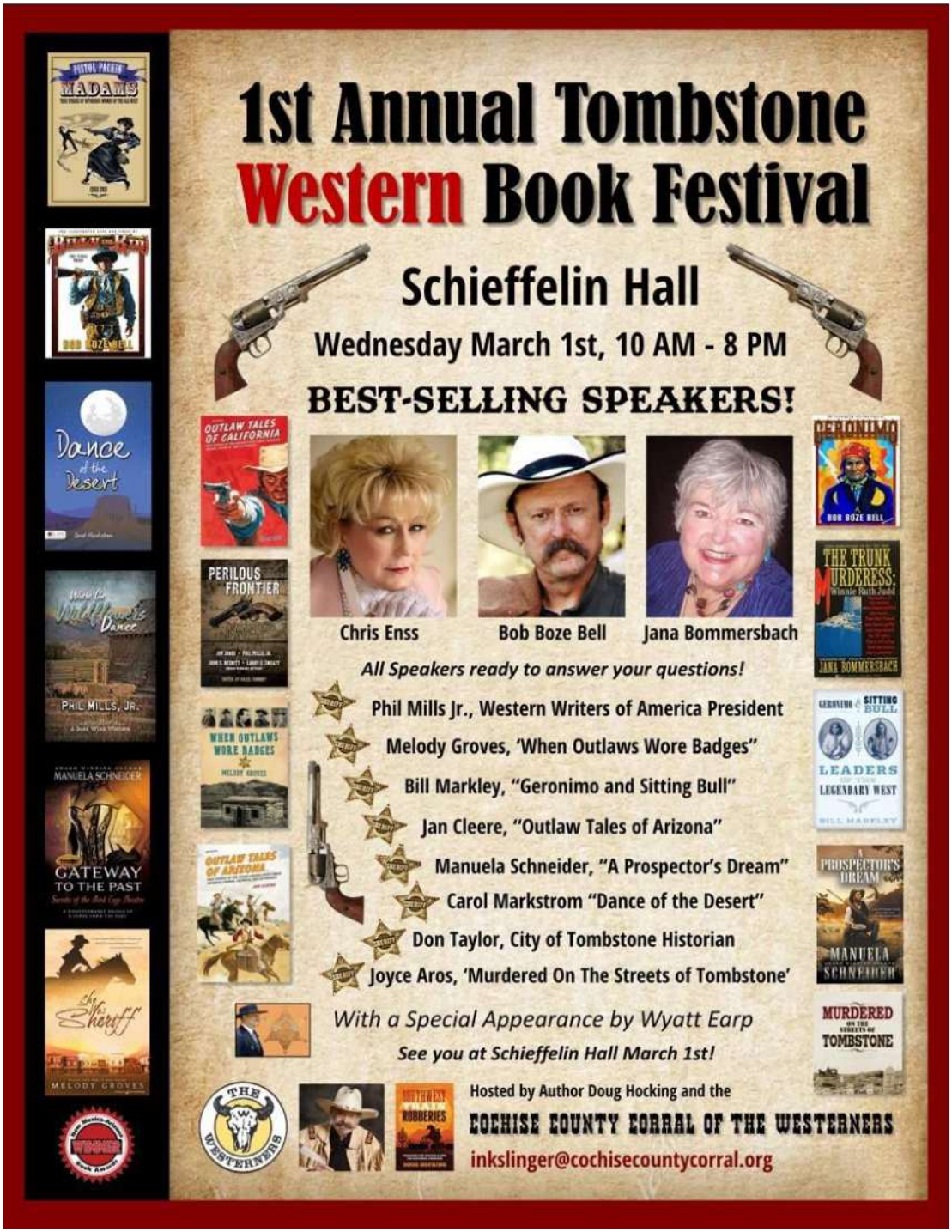
His passion of history also involved old planes of the military and he enjoyed going to air shows to see planes such as B-17 and B-52 bombers and was a member of the Commemorative Air Force.

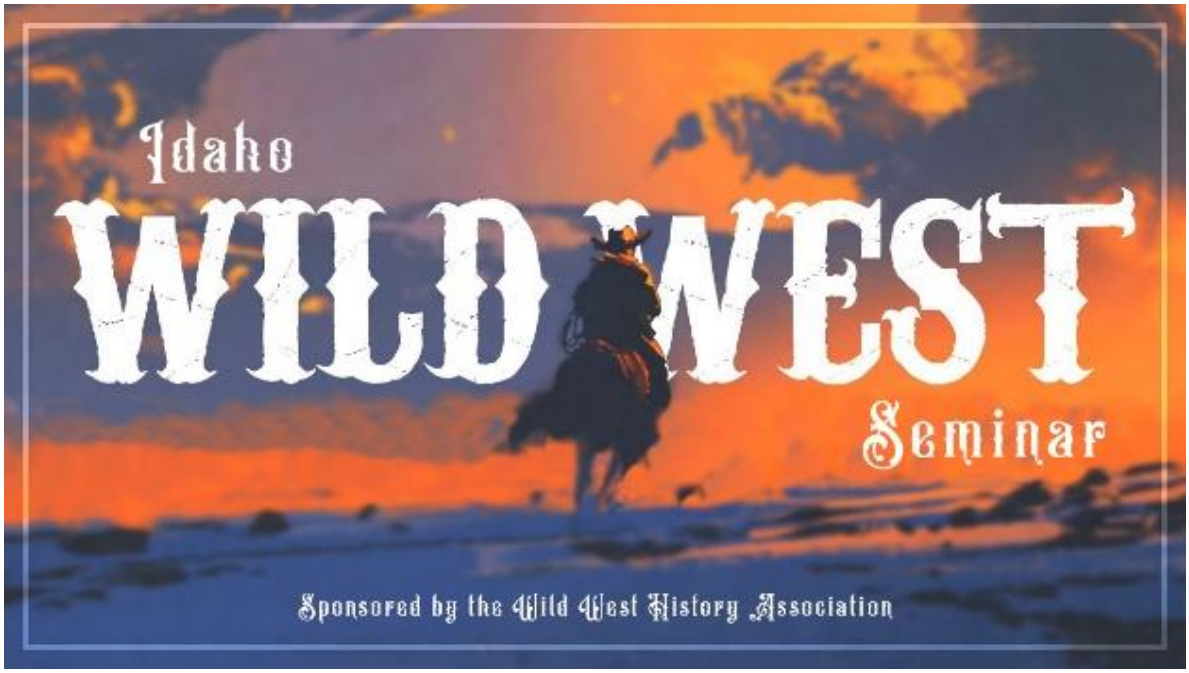
He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert B. and Constance; his in-laws Donald L. and Mary E Sweitzer; his wife of over 45 years Sandra I. Ernst; grandson Rhett L. Ernst and great-grandson Dexton Wayn Rice. He is survived by his son Robert D. Ernst and wife Tracey of Perkins Oklahoma and daughter Michelle L. Phelps and husband Dane of Stillwater Oklahoma. He is survived by his grandchildren: Augusta G. Sweitzer, R. Tanner Ernst, Macy L. Ernst, Emmaline R. Dethloff, Chloe E. Phelps, Dakota R. Phelps and 6 great-grandchildren. As well as numerous other family members and friends. The family would like to thank his caregivers Robin and Jennifer Thomas for all the support they provided. Memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Commemorative Air Force via www.commemorativeairforce.org. At the time of this notice, memorial services were yet pending. Condolences may be emailed to the family and an online obituary may be viewed by visiting www.strodefh.com .

1st Annual Tombstone Western Book Fair

The Cochise County (Arizona) Corral of the Westerners will host a western book fair on March 1, 2023, at historic Schieffelin Hall in Tombstone.

For additional information and applications contact CCCW Sheriff Doug Hocking at: inkslinger@cochisecountycorral.org.





IDAHO WILD WEST
SATURDAY MARCH 11TH 9am-4pm
OWYHEE COUNTY MUSEUM
MURPHY IDAHO

AGENDA

9-9:40– Joe Hickey-Gun display and Gun Tales of the Wild West
9:40-10:15- Marie Clyne- Soiled Doves-Prostitution in the West
10:15 -10:30–Break
10:30-11:15- Bill Betenson- Butch Cassidy's Wyoming Train Robberies
11:15– 12:00- John Hendricks – Military Medicine, Care in the Western Theater
12:00-1:00 Lunch
1:00 -1:40 –Mike Youngman- Rube Robbins, Idaho Lawman
1:40-2:15- Jerry Schaefer-Doc Shores, Man Hunter of the West
2:15-2:45- Max Black- The Blue Lady of Arland
3:00 -4:00- Corey Clyne and the Fort Boise Garrison will demonstrate the use of an 1847 Pack Howitzer Military Artillery piece.

FBI Case Files on Fold3

by Elizabeth Hodges

Fold3, a subscription-based database that can be accessed for free on-site in the Genealogy Center, is home to 596,318,073 total records. This database is considered the go-to resource for military records, but due to the "Russian-doll-like" nature of Fold3, most people don't realize the non-military gems waiting to be uncovered! One interesting non-military record collection on Fold3 are the FBI Case Files. This collection comprises 2,313,321 digitized records from 1908-1922. Beginning in 1908, the Bureau of Investigation (which became known as the FBI in 1935) kept files on millions of Americans. Even if you believe your ancestor was a law-abiding citizen, there is still a possibility that they might be mentioned in a case file.

The case files on Fold3 are divided into four distinct groups: Bureau Section Files (1920-21), Mexican Files (1909-21), Miscellaneous Files (1908-22), and the Old German Files 1915-20. The Bureau Section Files are composed of more than 240,000 investigative reports and correspondence from other areas of the Department of Justice, whose functions were eventually absorbed into the Bureau of Investigation. The Mexican Files are records relating to Mexican neutrality violations. The records include reports, memorandums, and other documents relating to investigations of persons believed to be operating against U.S. interests during the Mexican civil wars. The Miscellaneous Files are arranged by file numbers corresponding to dates on which the investigations began. These files contain investigative reports, correspondence, and memos pertaining to alleged violations of federal laws. The Old German Files, the largest of the four groups, contains 400,000 records (1.8 million individual documents) relating to investigations on German immigrants and German-Americans who were considered politically suspicious before and during World War I.

What is particularly interesting about the Old German Files is that the investigations were not limited to those who were German or German-American. A deeper dive into these files shows that anyone who was suspected of having the potential to be "pro-German," socialist, communist, or simply anti-war between 1915-1920 was being watched by the Bureau of Investigation. For example, anyone suspected of being involved with the International Workers of the World (IWW) was being watched. The Bureau of Investigation investigated a former Fort Wayne resident and freight handler for the Wabash and Nickel Plate railroads, James Gilday, because he was accused of being "a detective working in the I.W.W. ranks." Essentially, the Bureau of Investigation wanted to track down Gilday, so his file details primarily where he worked, where he lived, who his neighbors were, and where he moved to when he left Fort Wayne in May 1917. The Bureau investigated another Fort Wayne resident, Captain Edmund Van Buskirk, for "disloyalty" after allegedly making pro-German statements while he was stationed at Base Hospital at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, and because they believed he was "of German descent." The summary of this investigation is a gold mine of genealogical data! It details where he was from (as well as his parents and grandparents), his educational background, his employment history as the Allen County Health Officer, how many children he had, and that he was a Scottish Rite Mason.

The easiest way to find these records on Fold3 is to scroll towards the bottom of the homepage and click "Non-Military," then click "Publications," and search FBI in the Publications search bar. While Fold3 is a subscription-based database, certain record sets (including the FBI Case Files) are free. As with many records in Fold3, the organization of the records is convoluted, so don't make the mistake of limiting your search to the Old German Files or the Mexican Files because there are records for both filed under Miscellaneous. Despite the disorganization and difficulty of using Fold3, these records are fascinating and can offer great information to add to your family's story.

FBI Case Files on Fold3: https://www.fold3.com/publication/74/fbi-case-files

For more information on the Investigative Files of the Bureau of Investigation: https://www.fold3.com/pdf/M1085.pdf

A Historic Golden Railroad Spike Broke New Ground at Christie's, Selling for Over $2 Million—Quadruple Its Pre-Sale Estimate

Lee Carter, January 27, 2023

A steel railroad spike clad in gold and silver used in the ceremony marking the completion of the transcontinental railroad, May 10, 1869. Courtesy of Christie's.

A steel railroad spike clad in gold and silver, used in the ceremonial completion of the transcontinental railroad, recently sold for $2.22 million at auction, smashing its pre-sale estimate of $300,000–500,000.

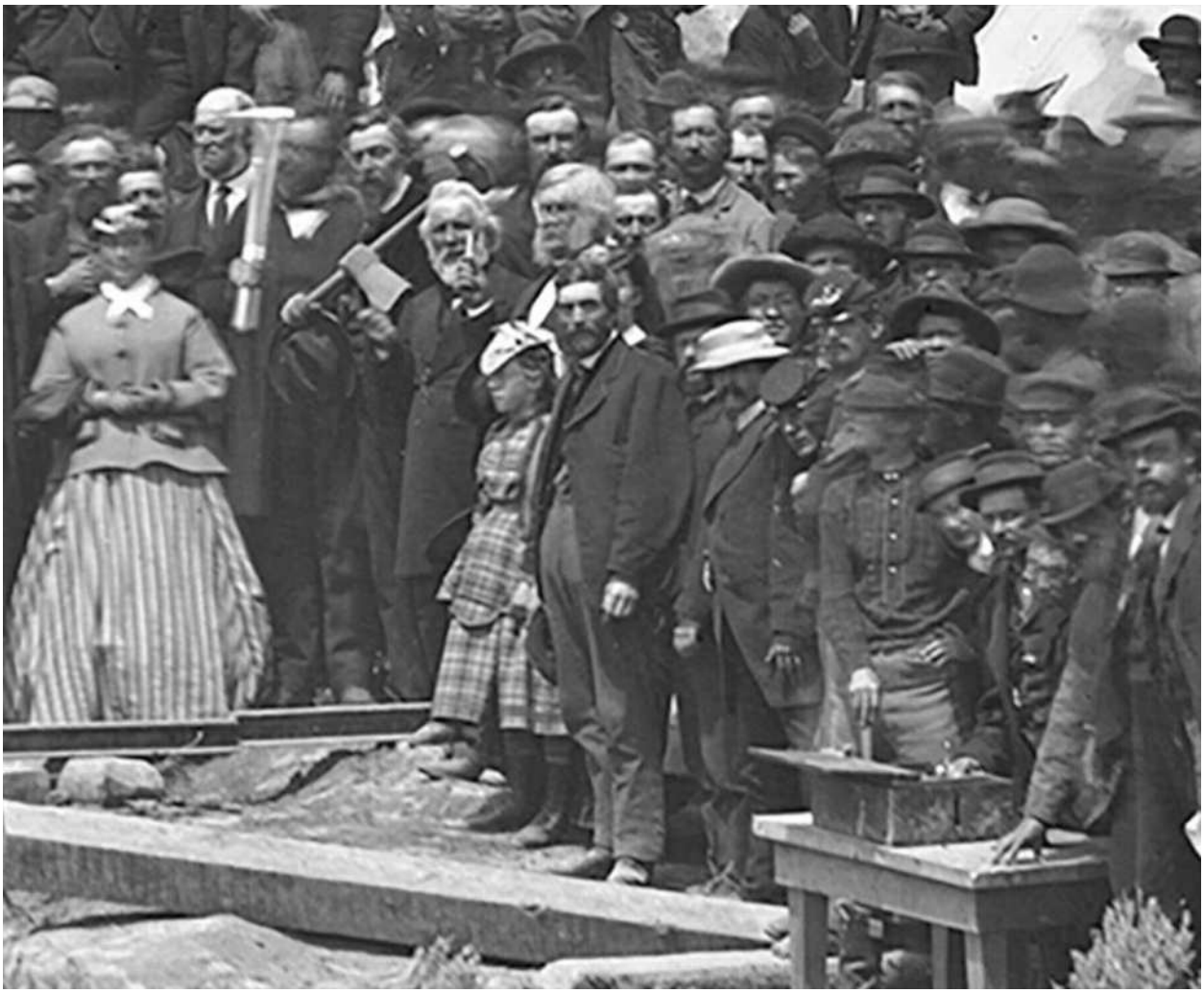
At just over five inches long, the Arizona Spike was the headliner of Christie's "The Exceptional Sale," featuring singular works of historic importance, as well as iconic objects of popular culture. Belonging to the Museum of the City of New York, the piece was sold to benefit the museum's collection.

"This was a one-of-a-kind piece of historic importance and we knew it would be the subject of intense competition among collectors," Peter Klarnet, Christie's Vice President, Senior Specialist Americana, told Artnet News. "In the end, the value soared past our expectations."

The spike was crafted to commemorate the completion of the world's first transcontinental railroad in 1869, joining the eastern and western halves of the United States and connecting California with the industrial centers of the east.

Spearheaded by an act of Congress before the Civil War and taking six years to complete, the railroad's construction is considered one of nation's greatest technological feats of the 19th century, allowing commerce to thrive throughout the country, even in places far from sea routes.

"I think the spike captured the imagination of collectors, in part, because it is a potent symbol of national unity," Klarnet added. "That sense of unity means as much today as it did when the transcontinental railroad was finished less than four years after the Civil War."



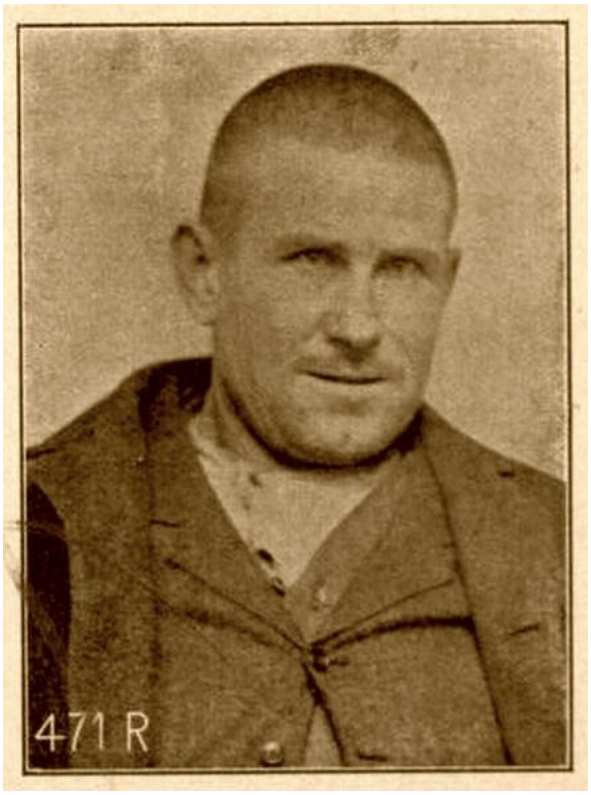
Event marking the completion of the transcontinental railroad, Promontory Point, Utah, May 10, 1869. (Courtesy of Christie's.)

O. C. Hanks – Wayward Son: Updated

William A. Mills

WWHA Journal *published an article entitled "O. C. Hanks - Wayward Son" in the September 2021 issue. Since then, WWHA has underwritten and placed a grave marker for Hanks at City Cemetery No. 4 in San Antonio, Texas. A "Memorial Stone Unveiling" was conducted on January 28, 2023 O. C. Hanks. Pictures and a story about this event will appear in the March 2023 issue of WWHA* Journal, *as well as some pics and information in the February on-line issue of the WWHA* Saddlebag.

This article will follow-up with material found since the publication of the September 2021 article, as well as provide key points from the first article.



Orlando Camilla "O. C." Hanks, 1907 (Pinkerton Booklet)

He was born as Orlando Camilla Hanks. As early as age ten in 1870, he was referred to as "O. C. Hanks". Later in life, he was known as "Deaf Charley", and was a member of the "Wild Bunch" - bank and train robbers - including Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

Camilla Hanks was born on 18 December 1860[1] in DeWitt Co., Texas, the son of Wyatt Hanks, Jr. (1835-1863) and Laura Amanda DeMoss (1838-1927). His father died at the age of twenty-eight in 1863 when Camilla was less than three-years old, during the Civil War. Wyatt Hanks, Jr. died on 10 April 1863[2] as a prisoner of war at Bolton Depot, Baltimore, Maryland. He had served as a wagon master in Co. K, 24th Texas Cavalry.

After the death of his father in 1863, Camilla's mother Laura continued to reside in DeWitt Co., Texas and operated a sheep farm with over 200 head of sheep. During his first decade of life, Camilla Hanks was likely a busy youngster working on his family's sheep farm, which may have contributed to his stocky build.

During 1870, Camilla's family consisted of his mother Laura (age 32), his older sister Hanah O. (age 12), O. C. (Camilla himself, age 9) and his younger brother Wyatt Hanks (age 7).[3]

On 22 August 1872, Camilla's widowed mother, Laura Amanda Hanks married James Webb Cox[4], who was fifteen years older than her (being born in 1823). Cox died at the hands of outlaws[5] the following year during the Sutton-Taylor Feud - just days before the birth of their child, James W. Cox, Jr. on 18 May 1873.

O.C. Hanks and his family were wrapped up in the Sutton-Taylor feud during his childhood years. He lost his father during the Civil War in 1863, when O.C was barely three years old. When his widowed mother married

O.C. Hanks with his sister Hanah Olivia Hanks, 1890s. (Hanks family photo collection)

Sister of O.C. Hanks, Hanah Olivia Hanks, ca 1910. (Hanks family photo collection)

James W. Cox in August 1872, Hanks' family likely started to catch flack from Cox's controversy with the associates of John Wesley Hardin and company. The family story indicated that Laura Amanda Hanks Cox (O.C. Hanks' mother) was shot in the leg while Cox was gone one day, by one of Hardin's associates - not long before her husband, James W. Cox was murdered. The family story also indicated that Hardin actually slashed Cox's throat "from ear to ear", after he was shot off of his horse.

Is it any wonder that O.C. Hanks turned out bad, after having to contend with such massive violence against his family? His mother was seriously shot in the leg, not long before delivering her baby, James W. Cox., Jr. in May 1873. Then, his step-father James W. Cox was killed.

After the violent murder of her husband James W. Cox in 1873, Camilla's mother Laura Cox continued to reside in DeWitt County, Texas and operated a sheep farm with her three sons: Camilla Hanks, Wyatt Hanks and James W. Cox, Jr.

Camilla Hanks didn't reside with either his mother's family or his sister Hanah in 1880 during the enumeration of the Federal census. At that time, he was facing charges for a crime that was later dismissed in June 1882, so may have been in custody then.

During the mid-1880s, Camilla Hanks may have headed West to New Mexico to reside with his step-brother William W. Cox (1854-1923), who was notorious himself in the annals of Wild West history.

Although James W. Cox was married to Camilla Hanks' mother Laura for less than a year prior to his violent death in 1873, his children became step-siblings of Camilla Hanks. One of his step-brothers was William W. Cox. Cox was born in Texas in 1854 and resided there until about 1886, when he migrated to New Mexico and then operated a large cattle ranch.

Prior to leaving Texas about 1886, William W. Cox was involved in a few murders in DeWitt County, Texas.

Pages from the December 1883 DeWitt Co., Texas court records - pertaining to William Webb Cox (1854-1923), step-brother to O. C. Hanks, indicate that there were three murder charges against Cox that were discharged on Christmas Eve 1883. Then there were the court costs of $5.00 per murder.

It appears that W.W. Cox had some serious connections in DeWitt Co., Texas, in order to have the three murder charges discharged. Or, he had some leverage on those who had the power to let him go. It seems uncanny that the charges were dropped on Christmas Eve.[6]

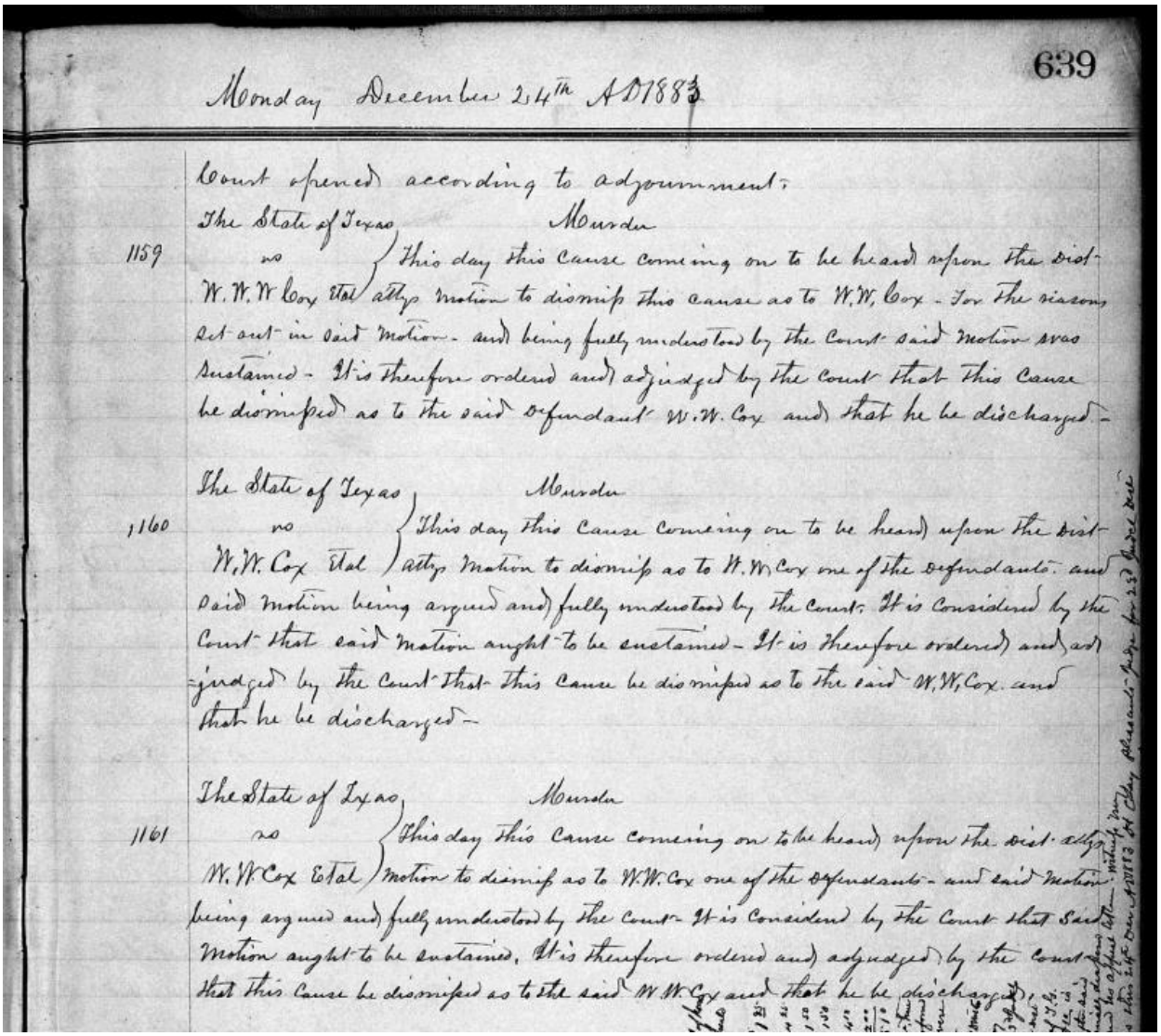
Once Cox married in Texas, he didn't tarry long there, prior to heading to New Mexico ca 1886.

Over the years, William W. Cox created the 150,000 acre San Augustine Ranch, which was one of the largest in southern New Mexico. William W. Cox died in 1923, and during the 1940s, the U.S. Army purchased much of the ranch, which is now the White Sands Missile Range[7].

Some sources suggest that William W. Cox may have been involved in the 1908 murder of Pat Garrett, the sheriff who shot Billy the Kid in 1881 - though it hasn't been proven.

There is a gap of about a decade in the time-line of the life of O. C. Hanks - from 1882 to 1892. After he left Texas, possibly during the mid-1880s, he may not have used his real name if he filled out any documents or was written about in the newspapers. Thus, there is a lot that we many never know about O. C. Hanks during that decade of his life.

O. C. Hanks was arrested in Teton County, Montana in 1892, and sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary at Deer Lodge, Montana for his part in holding up a Northern Pacific train near Big Timber, Montana. He was released on 30 April 1901.[8]



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Monday December 24th A.D. 1883

Court opened according to adjournment:

The State of Texas vs W. W. W Cox Etal — Murder

1159 — This day this Cause coming on to be heard upon the dist. attys motion to dismiss this cause as to W. W. Cox - for the reasons set out in said Motion - and being fully understood by the Court said Motion was sustained - It is therefore ordered and adjudged by the Court that this Cause be dismissed as to the said defendant W. W. Cox and that he be discharged -

The State of Texas vs W. W. Cox Etal — Murder

1160 — This day this Cause coming on to be heard upon the dist. attys Motion to dismiss as to W. W. Cox one of the defendants - and said Motion being argued and fully understood by the Court - It is considered by the Court that said motion aught to be sustained - It is therefore ordered and adjudged by the Court that this Cause be dismissed as to the said W. W. Cox and that he be discharged -

The State of Texas vs W. W. Cox Etal — Murder

1161 — This day this Cause coming on to be heard upon the dist. attys motion to dismiss as to W. W. Cox one of the defendants - and said Motion being argued and fully understood by the Court - It is considered by the Court that said Motion aught to be sustained. It is therefore ordered and adjudged by the Court that this Cause be dismissed as to the said W. W. Cox and that he be discharged

December 1883 DeWitt Co., TX court documents, William W. Cox murder discharges.

Pinkerton's National Detective Agency compiled a printed circular with detailed information about various Wild Bunch members, including O.C. Hanks, shown on following page:

Below appear the photographs, descriptions and histories of GEORGE PARKER, alias "BUTCH" CASSIDY, alias GEORGE CASSIDY, alias INGERFIELD and HARRY LONGBOUGH alias HARRY ALONZO.

GEORGE PARKER.
First photograph taken July 15, 1894.

Name..George Parker, alias "Butch" Cassidy, alias George Cassidy, alias Ingerfield.
Nationality.....American
Occupation.....Cowboy; rustler
Criminal Occupation.....Bank robber and highwayman, cattle and horse thief
Age..36 yrs. (1901)..*Height*....5 feet 9 in
Weight..165 lbs.....*Build*.....Medium
Complexion..Light ..*Color of Hair*.Flaxen
Eyes....Blue.....*Mustache*.Sandy, if any
Remarks:—Two cut scars back of head, small scar under left eye, small brown mole calf of leg. "Butch" Cassidy is known as a criminal principally in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Colorado and Nevada and has served time in Wyoming State penitentiary at Laramie for grand larceny, but was pardoned January 19th, 1896

GEORGE PARKER.
Last photograph taken Nov. 21, 1900.

HARRY LONGBOUGH.
Photograph taken Nov. 21, 1900.

Name.....Harry Longbough, alias "Kid" Longbough, alias Harry Alonzo alias the "Sun-Dance Kid"
Nationality.....Swedish-American..*Occupation*.....Cowboy; rustler
Criminal Occupation..Highwayman, bank burglar, cattle and horse thief:
Age.....35 to 40 years.....*Height*.....5 feet 9 in
Weight....165 to 175 lbs.....*Build*.....Good
Complexion.....Dark (looks like a quarter breed Indian)
Color of Hair.....Black
Eyes.....Black.....*Mustache or Beard*.....Black, if any
Features.....Grecian type.....*Nose*.....Rather long
Remarks:—Harry Longbough served 18 months in jail at Sundance, Cook Co., Wyoming, when a boy, for horse stealing. In December, 1892, Harry Longbough, Bill Madden and Henry Bass "held up" a Great Northern train at Malta, Montana. Bass and Madden were tried for this crime, convicted and sentenced to 10 and 14 years respectively; Longbough escaped and since has been a fugitive. June 28, 1897, under the name of Frank Jones, Longbough participated with Harvey Logan, alias Curry, Tom Day and Walter Putney, in the Belle Fouche, S. D., bank robbery. All were arrested, but Longbough and Harvey Logan escaped from jail at Deadwood, October 31, the same year. Longbough has not since been arrested.

We also publish below a photograph, history and description of CAMILLA HANKS, alias O. C. HANKS, alias CHARLEY JONES, alias "DEAF" CHARLEY, who may be found in the company of either PARKER, alias CASSIDY or LONGBOUGH, alias ALONZO, and for whom a proportionate amount of a **$5,000.00 Reward** is offered by the GREAT NORTHERN EXPRESS COMPANY upon arrest and conviction for participation in the Great Northern (Railway) Express robbery near Wagner, Mont., July 3rd, 1901.

CAMILLA HANKS.
Photograph taken 1892.

Name..O. C. Hanks, alias Camilla Hanks, alias Charley Jones, alias Deaf Charley
Nationality.....American.....*Occupation*.....Cowboy
Criminal Occupation.....Train robber; an ex-convict.
Age.....38 years (1901).....*Height*.....5 feet 10 in
Weight....156 lbs.....*Build*.....Good
Complexion.....Sandy.....*Color of Hair*.....Auburn
Eyes.....Blue.....*Mustache or Beard*.....Sandy, if any
Remarks:—Scar from burn, size 25c piece, on right forearm. Small scar right leg, above ankle. Mole near right nipple. Leans his head slightly to the left. Somewhat deaf. Raised near Los Vegas, New Mexico, where he is wanted for murder. Arrested in Teton County, Montana, 1802, and sentenced to 10 years in the penitentiary at Deer Lodge, for holding up Northern Pacific train near Big Timber, Montana. Released April 30th, 1901.

HARVEY LOGAN, alias **"KID" CURRY**, referred to in our first circular issued from Denver on May 15, 1901, is now under arrest at Knoxville, Tenn., charged with shooting two police officers who were attempting his arrest.

BEN KILPATRICK, alias **JOHN ARNOLD**, alias **"THE LONE TEXAN"** of Concho County, Texas, another member of the "Harvey Logan band" of outlaws, was arrested at St. Louis, Mo., on November 5th, 1901, tried, convicted and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for participation in the robbery of the GREAT NORTHERN EXPRESS COMPANY, near Wagner, Mont.

WILLIAM CARVER, alias **"BILL" CARVER**, of Sonora, Sutton County, Texas, another member of this band, was killed at Sonora, Texas, April 2nd, 1901, by Sheriff E. S. Briant, while resisting arrest on charge of murder.

IN CASE OF AN ARREST immediately notify PINKERTON'S NATIONAL DETECTIVE AGENCY at the nearest of the above listed offices.

Or

JOHN C. FRASER,
Resident Sup't., DENVER, COLO.

Pinkerton's National Detective Agency,
Opera House Block, Denver, Colo.

Wyatt Hanks, III (1863-1924) the younger brother of O. C. Hanks, spent over four years in prison from 20 October 1888 until 20 February 1893. Thus, there was about a three-month time period between late 1892 and mid-February 1893 when both O. C. Hanks and his younger brother were in prison.

During 1900, Camilla's mother Laura Cox (widowed, age 61, occupation: nurse), resided with George Stribling (29, dry goods clerk) and his family in Abilene, Texas.[9] She continued to reside in the Abilene, Texas area for several more years.

About two months after his release from prison in Montana in late April 1901, O. C. Hanks reverted back to his ways of robbery. He was involved in the robbery of the Great Northern Express train at Wagner, Montana on 3 July 1901.

The following article was published on 10 July 1901 in Fort Benton, Montana.[10] It presents several details about the famous Great Northern Express train robbery on 3 July 1901.

Successful Train Robbery
Great Northern Flyer held up and a large amount of plunder secured.

The criminal record of Choteau county was increased Wednesday afternoon by one of the boldest and most successful train robberies ever undertaken by the profession. The Great Northern westbound flyer was held up by three bandits near Wagner, a station a short distance west of the Valley county boundary line, and the treasure box of the express car relieved of currency and various articles of value to an amount estimated as high as $50,000. The robbery was perpetrated in broad daylight, and among its exciting features was the shooting of a brakeman and a male and girl passenger, each of whom escaped with more or less serious wounds from the rifles carried by the bandits.

The stories told by the parties who were on the train differ in some minor details, but all agreed that the robbery was executed in such an orderly manner that it was the work of experts at the business. As the train was leaving Malta, Conductor Smith noticed what he supposed to be a tramp on the front end of the mail car next to the engine. He tried to drive him off after the train started, but the man pulled a revolver and said he had better go back or he would shoot him. The conductor returned to the coaches and as Sheriff Griffith, of Valley county was on the train, arranged with him to arrest the man at the next siding. When the train approached Exeter, the next siding West of Malta, the conductor signaled the engineer to stop, but the train only slackened speed. The conductor signaled a second time, but the train did not stop. Engineer Jones was, during this time, covered by a gun and was told by the tramp that if the train stopped, he would kill him. When the train reached a point three miles East of Wagner, the engineer was forced to stop and two more men appeared armed with Winchesters.

Brakeman Whiteside got off the rear end of the train and was shot through the right arm, near the shoulder, shattering the bone.

A.W. Douglass, traveling auditor of the Great Northern Montana division, swung out on the steps on the South side of the car and was shot through the left arm near the shoulder, but received only a flesh wound. Gertrude M. Smith, of Toman, Wis., bound for Seattle, leaned out of a window and was shot in the right arm, but not seriously injured.

Two of the robbers stood guard over the train, while the third man marched the engineer and fireman to the express car. The express messenger was ordered to go into the first coach and order all passengers

back to the next car, as they were going to blow up the safe in the express car and did not want to injure anyone. The bandit then climbed into the express car with a rifle and placed the dynamite and ordered the men under guard up to the engine, telling them to stay close to the track and they would not be injured. The first shot sent the roof of the car flying through the air but it failed to crack the safe. The engineer and fireman were made to carry down the second charge of dynamite, but Jones, pleading lame, the express man was made to carry the burden intended for him. The second shot also failed, but the third blew it open. Fireman O'Neill was taken into the car and made to hold the sack which was filled with plunder. The robbers escaped on horses that were picketed nearby, proceeding in a Southerly direction.

The description of the bandits, for whose arrest a reward of $5,000 is offered, says: "One of the men weighs 195 pounds. He wore a long beard on his chin and a week's growth of whiskers covered the rest of his face. He wore new tan shoes, a black coat and vest and corduroy trousers. His revolver was suspended from his neck with a leather loop."

Another of the gang is described as being six feet tall. He is not stoutly built. He has sandy complexion and blue eyes. There is a light scar on his left cheek. He appears to be a working man. He wore a black coat and vest over blue overalls. His shoes were black. His revolver was carried in a bootleg scabbard.

The man who was particularly noticeable for his shooting proclivities is believed to be a half-breed. His eyes are jet black, he has a prominent nose and clear cut features. It is estimated that he will weigh 180 pounds. While his shoulders are conspicuously square, they are slightly stooped. He wore a black slouch hat. The gun he had resembled a Winchester. The men rode black, white and buckskin ponies.

A sheep herder riding by about a quarter of a mile from where the express car was blown up, was fired upon by the robbers. The bullet struck his saddle, but did not inflict any serious wound nor hinder his horse from making a wild dash for liberty. The sheep herder reached Wagner about 3:30 p.m. and a posse from Malta and one from Glasgow, 75 miles east, were started within 15 minutes by special train. On the arrival of the looted train at Wagner, Sheriff Griffith organized a posse of ten men and started on the trail of the robbers.

Postcard showing the dynamited express car after the Curry "Hold Up" between Malta and Wagner, Montana. July 3, 1901. "Kid" Curry's gang got away with $80,000.

Two newspaper articles that were a day apart and published in Butte, Montana contained some interesting information about O. C. Hanks and his alleged activities after supposedly being captured in November 1901. What a difference a day made between Hanks purportedly being "Bob Collins" or not - and he wasn't. They surmised that Hanks had snitched on the Wild Bunch and provided information about the Great Northern Express train robbery in July 1901. Several newspapers across the country also published similar articles with the information

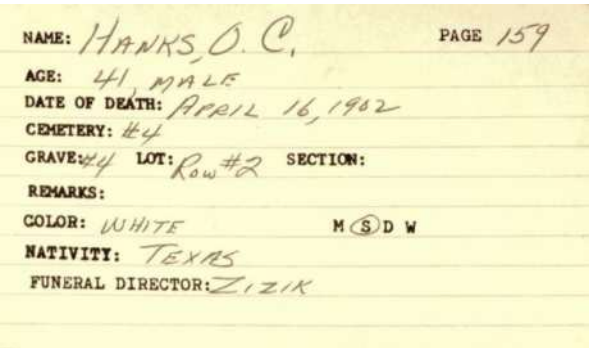
about Hanks. When members of the Wild Bunch read these articles, it may not have *set well* with them - Hanks giving up vital information about their July 1901 armed train robbery in Montana.

One article was published on 27 November 1901 in Butte, Montana.[11] It indicated that O. C. Hanks had been captured and was using the name "Robert Collins". The following day, an article was published on 28 November 1901 in Butte, Montana.[12] It indicated that O. C. Hanks was not Robert Collins.

Could it have been possible that members of the Wild Bunch gang may have set O.C. Hanks up to be killed in San Antonio - for the alleged statements that he made in late 1901 about the July 1901 armed train robbery in Montana - after his supposed "capture"? The November 1901 newspaper articles later indicated that it wasn't actually O.C. Hanks who was captured - but rather "Bob Collins". The Wild Bunch gang weren't people to mess around with, so they may have possibly been behind the reason that Hanks was "eliminated" in April 1902.

Less than five months later, O.C. Hanks was shot and killed by Texas officers at San Antonio, Texas on 16 April 1902, while resisting arrest. He was forty-one years old. At first, the authorities thought he was Wyatt Hanks, as his brother's name was on the clothing that he was wearing. His mother (Mrs. L. A. Cox) was called in from Abilene, Texas to verify that it was actually Camilla Hanks who was shot.

The following article was published on 23 April 1902 in San Antonio, Texas: "the body of O. C. Hanks would be buried in Cemetery No. 4 and the expense of the burial would be by Mrs. Cox, his mother." [13]


NAME: HANKS, O. C. PAGE 159
AGE: 41 MALE
DATE OF DEATH: APRIL 16, 1902
CEMETERY: #4
GRAVE: #4 LOT: Row #2 SECTION:
REMARKS:
COLOR: WHITE M (S) D W
NATIVITY: TEXAS
FUNERAL DIRECTOR: ZIZIK

Cemetery card with details of O.C. Hanks' burial in Cemetery #4 (Texas, Bexar County, San Antonio Cemetery Records, 1893-2007)

From 16 April 1902 when O.C. Hanks was shot and killed in San Antonio, Texas by Pink Taylor, and over the following two weeks during the balance of April 1902, the local and national newspapers covered a lot of details about Hanks and his outlaw exploits.

The following article was published on 17 April 1902 in San Antonio, Texas.[14] It indicates that there was some confusion about who was shot - whether it was O.C. Hanks or his brother Wyatt Hanks.

Identified at Last
Dead man is said to be Wyatt Hanks

Police think, however, that he is Camilla Hanks, the train robber - his mother is coming

The stranger who met death Thursday morning, while resisting arrest in Flo Williams' saloon, has been identified as Wyatt Hanks, an ex-convict. Addington Kilgore, a former sheriff of DeWitt county, made the identification yesterday afternoon, late.

As stated yesterday in *The Light*, the name of "Wyatt Hanks" found on a marker under the coat collar, bears out the identification by Mr. Kilgore. This marker was found under the coat collar yesterday afternoon by a reporter for *The Light*, while at the undertaking establishment. It was also observed

that the inside pockets of this coat attached to the regular pocket, in the shape of a revolver scabbard. The pockets are also supplied with small straps, which no doubt served to hold his revolvers in place. Hence, he could have guns on him at all times and never be detected.

Mr. Kilgore stated that fifteen years ago, when acting in the capacity of sheriff of DeWitt county, he arrested Wyatt Hanks on a charge of horse theft and convicted him.

Immediately after the fight in the saloon, in which Hanks met his death, Officer Harvey left, owing to the fact that his face had been powder burnt. He went to a drug store and was attended by a physician. Later, he went home. Last evening, he called at police headquarters when it was learned that the shot fired by Hanks as the officers entered the door, struck Harvey in the stomach. Fortunately, however, the missile struck the big buckle of his belt, and shattered it into fragments. Had the bullet struck a little lower or higher and entered his body, the wound would have doubtless proved fatal.

City Detective Womack is in the receipt of a description of one Camilla Hanks, alias O. C. Hanks, alias Charley Jones, alias "Deaf Charley", accompanied by a photograph of the man, from Pinkerton's National Detective Agency's Denver headquarters, whom he believes to be the Hanks killed here.

He says the following marks about the body of the dead man answer the description as given by the Pinkerton agency. A scar from a burn, the size of a 25-cent piece on the right forearm; a small scar on right leg, above ankle; mole near right nipple.

For this party, the paper held by Detective Womack states that the Great Northern Express Company offers $5,000 for the arrest and conviction for participation in the Great Northern Railway Express robbery near Wagner, Mont., July 3rd, 1901.

The paper also states that he was raised in Yorktown, Tex., and is a fugitive from there on a criminal charge, and is also wanted in New Mexico on a charge of murder; further, that he was arrested in Teton County, Mont., in 1892, and sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary at Deer Lodge for holding up the Northern Pacific train near Big Timber, Montana.

Mayor Hicks, this morning, received the following telegram from Abilene, Texas, regarding the body of Hanks: "Hold the body of so called Hanks until identified. Answer, Mrs. L. A. Cox".

The telegram was at once turned over to Police Lieutenant Van Riper, who ordered the matter attended to at once. Further developments will be awaited. It is said that Mrs. Cox is the mother of Hanks and she can tell when she arrives, whether he is the man suspected of train robbery or not.

The following article was published on 18 April 1902 in Paducah, Kentucky.[15] It indicates that O.C. Hanks was “one of the most desperate outlaws and train robbers in the country”.

Train Robber's Fate
Resisted arrest and was killed by two police officers at San Antonio

San Antonio, Tex., April 18. - An unknown man was shot and killed by Officer Pink Taylor, and has been clearly identified as Camilla Hanks, alias O. C. Hanks, alias Charley Jones, alias Deaf Charley, one of the most desperate outlaws and train robbers in the country. The identification was by a former sheriff of Dewitt county, where Hanks was born, and from

where he was a refuge under a charge of assault. The body has also been identified by a picture sent out by a detective agency, and by marks and scars on the body. When the man appeared at the resort where he was killed here, his actions were suspicious, and a telephone message was sent to police headquarters. Officer Taylor and two others hastened to the place, and as soon as they appeared, the man opened fire on them. He was seized by two of them, and in the struggle that followed, he was shot three times by Officer Taylor, and he died without speaking.

The following article was published on 18 April 1902 in San Francisco, California.[16]

Victim of Policeman's Bullet is Identified
Man shot at San Antonio is said to be an outlaw and train robber

San Antonio, Tex., April 17. - The man shot and killed by Officer Pink on Nueva Street at 2:30 o'clock in the morning, and whose body has been in the Morgue since that time, has been identified as Camilla Hanks, alias Charlie Jones, alias Deaf Charlie, said to be an outlaw and train robber. The record of the man as given by a detective agency follows:

"Raised at Yorktown, De Witt County, Texas: fugitive from there, charged with assault; wanted in New Mexico for murder; arrested in Seton County, Montana in 1892 and sentenced to ten years in the Deer Lodge Penitentiary for holding up Northern Pacific train near Big Timber, Mont., released 1901; wanted for robbery of the Great Northern train at Wagner, Mont., July 3, 1901.

Regardless of how bad a Wild West outlaw was, he had a mother at one time in his life - if only for a short while. In the case of O. C. Hanks, his mother Laura Amanda DeMoss Hanks Cox was aged 63 (she lived to age 88 in 1927 - outliving O. C. Hanks by 25 years) when her son was shot and killed in San Antonio, Texas in April 1902.

The following article was published on 19 April 1902 in Anaconda, Montana.[17] It described the dramatic, emotional scene about his mother when she first saw her dead son, O. C. Hanks in the morgue, upon traveling from Abilene to identify him.

Body is Identified
Mother of train robber Hanks says man killed in Texas was her son
Stolen bank bills found

Five hundred dollars in National Bank of Montana currency, a portion of that taken from Great Northern Train, discovered in pockets of the desperado. Pathetic scene in the morgue when the aged mother sees her ***Wayward Son***, cold in death.

Special dispatch to the Standard

San Antonio, Tex., April 18. - All doubts of the identity of the man killed by Officer Pink Taylor in Flo Williams' resort were dispelled today by Mrs. L. A. Cox of Abilene, Tex., who positively identified the man as her son, O. C. Hanks, alias Camilla Hanks, the train and bank robber. Mrs. Cox left Abilene yesterday in response to a telegram and arrived at San Antonio this afternoon. She was taken immediately to the morgue, where the dead train robber lay, and on being conducted to the casket in which the body rested, she, without hesitation, stated that it was the body of her son, Orlando Camilla Hanks.

The aged woman threw herself across the casket and endeavored to encircle the cold form in her arms, sobbing, "my poor, unfortunate boy". The scene was dramatic and touching in the extreme. Mrs. Cox states that

she is not surprised at the death of her son, and that she had been expecting it.

The dead man was at his brother's ranch in October, and while there, secured a coat with the name of his brother, Wyatt Hanks, worked in the collar. He had this coat on when killed.

On the body of Hanks was found between $400 and $500 in currency, in $10 and $20 bills, of the National Bank of Montana. This money has been identified by Secret Service men as part of that taken from the Great Northern Express train at Wagner, Mont., on July 3, 1901. Hanks' body will be held here until the arrival of a Pinkerton officer from Denver.

Hanks was known in Montana as Charley Jones. He, with others, held up a passenger train near Big Timber, and was afterward convicted and sentenced to serve 10 years in the Deer Lodge penitentiary. He was but recently released from prison.

The following article was published on 20 April 1902 in San Antonio, Texas.[18] It contained a statement by the mother of O.C. Hanks (on 19 April 1902) to Judge Thad Adams and detective John Womack:

> "The last time I saw my son, Camilla Hanks, was in the early part of November 1901, when we were together for several days. He told me at that time, that his part of the money procured by the train robbery [3 July 1901], was nearly $11,000 and that he had buried about $5,000 of the amount on the ranch of my son, Wyatt Hanks, in Callahan Co., Texas. My son Wyatt, afterward told me that Camilla had taken up the buried money and carried it away."

The following article was published on 20 April 1902 in San Francisco, California.[19] It indicated that W.A. Pinkerton had stated that "Hanks was one of the most desperate robbers his agency has had to do with."

Noted Criminal Meets Fate at Officer's Hands - Pinkerton Agency Receives News of O. C. Hanks' Death While Resisting Arrest in Texas

Word was receive here yesterday by W.A. Pinkerton of the Pinkerton's National Detective Agency that O.C. Hanks, alias Camilla Hanks, alias Charley Jones, alias Deaf Charley, was shot in San Antonio, Tex., on Wednesday by Officer Pink Taylor while resisting arrest. The body was identified by the Pinkerton people and also by his mother, Mrs. L. A. Cox, of Abilene, Tex. She gave his correct name as Orlando Camilla Hanks. Hanks at one time lived in San Francisco, but was never concerned here in a serious affair.

Hanks was as desperate a criminal as ever operated in the United States and was one of a gang of train and bank robbers. George Parker, alias "Butch Cassidy", alias George Cassidy, alias Ingerfield, and Harry Longbaugh, alias "Kid" Longbaugh, alias Harry Alonzo, alias the "Sundance Kid", with Hanks and a number of others were concerned in the robbery of the First National Bank of Winnemucca, Nev., when $32,640 was secured by three masked men, who entered the bank, held up the cashier and four other persons. Two of the robbers carried revolvers and the third a Winchester. They compelled the five persons to go into the inner office of the bank while the robbery was committed. Most of the money was in gold coin.

The same gang was concerned in the hold-up of the Great Northern Express train, near Wagner, Mont., on July 3, 1901, when $65,000 in unsigned bills of the National Bank of Montana

and the American National Bank of Helena were stolen. Bills to the amount of between $400 and $500 of the National Bank of Montana were found on the body of Hanks. Other members of the gang are now in jail, but Longbaugh and Parker are still at large.

Hanks, shortly after the last robbery, was pursued by officers in Nashville, Tenn. He jumped into an ice wagon and drove off at a furious rate of speed. But the ice wagon was too slow for him. He threw the horses down, blocking the road, forced a negro out of a buggy, drove into the country, secured a fresh horse and escaped. Shots were exchanged on both sides.

According to Pinkerton, Hanks was one of the most desperate robbers his agency has had to do with and he expressed satisfaction that an end had at last been put to his career.

An article about Camilla Hanks, that was published in the *San Francisco Call* newspaper on 20 April 1902, had a detailed portrait of Camilla Hanks, which appeared to be sketched from his Pinkerton Detective Agency files photo. It was done by Adolf Methfessel (1836-1909), an artist whose work is still being auctioned by Christie's, Sotheby's and Bonham's - selling for tens of thousands of dollars. It would be interesting to know how many other Wild West outlaws had been depicted in his artwork over the years. Methfessel was about age sixty-six at the time that he did Camilla Hanks' portrait, and died about seven years later in 1909.

Portrait of Camilla Hanks,
***San Francisco Call*, April 20, 1902.**

The following article was published on 30 April 1902 in San Antonio, Texas.[20] This very extensive article provides a lot of details about O. C. Hanks and his exploits.

Hanks, the Train Robber
Identification complete.
Some facts in his history

A representative of the famous Pinkerton Detective Agency arrived in San Antonio from Denver Monday, and, in company with the local Secret Service agent, viewed the dead body of the man who was killed in this city Wednesday morning by Officer Pink Taylor, and identified it as the body of O. C. Hanks, one of the nerviest, most daring train robbers in the United States. The Pinkerton man referred to is one of the oldest men in the service. He knows Hanks, and, since December 1899 has worked steadily on the gang

of train robbers, of which Hanks was a member. He says Hanks was the man who, on Oct. 27, last, in a hand-to-hand fight with two officers at Nashville, Tenn., fought clear of them, ran down the street, and, jumping into an ice wagon, clubbed its driver, raced for life through a fusillade of shots, and when the wagon came to grief by one of the horses falling and breaking a leg, seized a horse and buggy, and after a sensational ride, though badly wounded, reached the outskirts of the city and escaped. The agent told the following story of the man's career to an *Express* representative:

"I am positive that the man killed by Officer Taylor last Wednesday morning is O. C. Hanks, one of the most courageous men in the country, and a man who would die before being taken. He was raised in and near Yorktown, Tex. He got into trouble there seventeen years ago [1885], and had to fly. He went to Montana, where he got in with Harry Longbaugh, a notorious desperado, and took to train robbing. One of the first train robberies he committed was at Malta, Mont., in 1892, in company with Longbaugh, Bill Madden and George Bass. Hanks and Longbaugh got away, but the other two were caught and sent up for ten years, which they have just served. Shortly afterwards, Hanks, with others, held up and robbed a train at Big Timber, Mont. Hanks was captured and received a sentence of ten years in the penitentiary at Deer Lodge, Mont. He was discharged April 30, 1901.

"Our investigations show that when he came out of prison a year ago, he sought to find Harry Longbaugh again, and Harvey Logan, the chief and the cleverest of all the train robbers that have operated in this county during the last twenty-five years. In search of them, he went to Malta, Mont., in June last. Failing to find them, he then went to Harlem, Mont. Whether he met them there, I do not know, but on July 3, last, the Great Northern train was held up at 2 o'clock p.m., at Wagner, Mont., by three unmasked men, O. C. Hanks, Harvey Logan and Ben Kilpatrick of Paint Rock, Tex. They procured $41,500. The bills belonged to the Montana National Bank, and were unsigned, being on the way from Washington, D.C. to Helena. The Pinkerton Agency was called upon, and, procuring descriptions from the trainmen, we ascertained the robbers to be Hanks, Logan and Kilpatrick.

"Shortly afterwards, Logan and a woman named Della Moore, who lived with Fannie Porter, a sporting woman of San Antonio, took a trip to Louisiana, and later turned up in Nashville, Tenn. On Oct. 14, last, the woman went to a bank to change some of the money, and was immediately arrested. She is still in custody. Logan got wind of what had occurred and escaped.

"An attempt was made to arrest him at Knoxville, Tenn., about Dec. 14 or 16, last, but he shot both officers and escaped. These officers have never recovered from their wounds, and they are now unable to appear in court against him. The Pinkerton's wired the authorities at Knoxville that the man was Logan, and to make every effort to take him. He was captured three days later, thirty-six miles from Knoxville, and is still in custody, awaiting trial.

"Ben Kilpatrick was arrested in Dec. 1901, at St. Louis, with a woman named Laura Bullion, from Knickerbocker, Tex. Between them, they had $9,000 of money taken in the Great Northern robbery. Kilpatrick got fifteen years in the United States

penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio, and Laura Bullion got five years in the Missouri penitentiary.

"Hanks also went to Nashville, and on Oct. 27, 1901, an attempt was made to arrest him, the result of trying to pass the stolen money. He clubbed the officers and broke away, and after one of the most desperate and thrilling chases any man ever had, made good his escape. He then went to the ranch of his brother, Wyatt Hanks, in Callahan county, Texas, to recover from his wounds received in his Nashville battle. The next thing heard from him was the news of his killing in San Antonio, an event which rejoices the hearts of the people of the Northwest, for it winds up the worst part of the most desperate gang of robbers in this country.

"I consider that if Hanks had been perfectly sober, he would have killed all three of the officers who took part in the tragedy last Wednesday. He was physically a match for two men, as his plucky Nashville fight shows. Officer Taylor, would have done wrong had he hesitated to shoot.

"Taylor, Harvey and Hughes will undoubtedly get the reward offered."

The bills of the National Bank of Montana, which were found on the person of Hanks, and which are part of the money stolen from the express car at Wagner, were turned over by Justice Adams to the local Secret Service agent. There are eighteen $20 bills. About half of them are fresh and crisp and the others are brown, stained and crumpled. The latter are the bills that were buried, according to Mrs. Cox, on the ranch of Wyatt Hanks, brother of the deceased, in Callahan county. All the bills are signed with fictitious names where the signatures of the president and cashier of the Montana Bank should be. The names "Edward O. Gorman" written in a flowing backhand appears as the signature of the president, and that of "Charles G. Phillips", in the space where the cashier's signature should be. The latter is written in rather a cramped hand. The Secret Service agent will send the bills to the Treasury Department at Washington. There, they will be cancelled and new bills to an equal amount will be issued to the National Bank of Montana. No reward was offered for the recovery of any of this money, according to the Secret Service agent. The impression that such a reward had been offered, grew out of the offer of a reward for the recovery of money stolen from a Wisconsin bank. Officer Taylor, representing himself and Officers Harvey and Hughes, on Tuesday, laid formal claim to the reward offered for Hanks. The claim is directed to D. S. Elliott, auditor of the Great Northern Express Co., at St. Paul, Minn. The understanding, derived from circulars issued by the Pinkerton agency is that the sum of $1,250 was offered for Hanks, with an additional $500 for his conviction. The Pinkerton agent believes the express company will gladly pay both rewards.

Prompt payment of these rewards would cause officers all over the country to be more than ever alive to the desirability of capturing or killing the only member of the gang who is now at liberty, Harry Longbaugh. - San Antonio Express

Is it possible that someone may have orchestrated the slaying of O.C. Hanks, and did it so that it would occur late at night, to keep down the number of witnesses, and to catch Hanks off-guard while he was half-asleep in his room, or on the way back to it?

There was a large reward offered for O.C. Hanks, thus it is logical that people would have

been pleased to receive it. All it took, was to "get Hanks", and his previous escapades with law enforcement showed that it wasn't so easy to "get him". He was a tough character.

Perhaps there were way too many details that were "supplied by the witnesses" of the shooting on that late night in the "saloon" - when the killing may have actually taken place outside in the streets of San Antonio, Texas, just as the 1907 Pinkerton booklet indicated. [21]

Hanks was a very quiet person, who had a "mouth like a trap". He was staying at a boarding house in San Antonio, when he allegedly went over to the saloon and started blabbing about how famous he was - while drunk. And all of this transpired late at night, when Hanks would likely have been in his room, either already sleeping or ready to go to bed.

The following article appeared about five months after O. C. Hanks was gunned down by Pink Taylor. If this is the correct "Pink Taylor", it indicates that he was spending some serious money on horses - perhaps some of the reward money that he received for killing Hanks in April 1902?

> 12 September 1902, *Alpine Avalanche*, Texas:
>
> "Pink Taylor of San Antonio is here shaking hands with his old friends. But he combines business with pleasure, and has bought two cars of horses and mares, viz, 1 car of mares of W. J. McIntyre, 15 mares of A. T. Winder and 8 horses of Duncan Campbell."

There are some inconsistencies concerning the killing of O. C. Hanks, that are notable: 1907 Pinkerton Booklet, *Train robberies, train robbers and the "holdup" men*. Address by William A. Pinkerton, page 76: "On April 17, 1902, he [O. C. Hanks] was killed by officers in the streets of San Antonio, Texas, while resisting arrest."

Note that in the many newspaper articles concerning the 16 April 1902 Hanks shooting of O. C. Hanks in San Antonio, Texas, there are various scenarios, names and places where the alleged shooting and killing of O.C. Hanks took place - mostly inside buildings. Was Hanks killed in the streets of San Antonio, Texas? It seems odd that the Pinkerton booklet of 1907 would make an error like that, if it wasn't correct?

Proceedings of the Convention of the American Bankers' Association, 1902. This report was published about six months after O. C. Hanks was killed in April 1902: [22] "Deaf Charlie", another one of this combination of criminals, was killed at San Antonio, Texas, April 17, 1902, while resisting arrest for the Great Northern express robbery at Wagner, Mont."

Note that O.C. Hanks was supposedly "resisting arrest for the Great Northern express robbery at Wagner, Mont." If that was the case, then why did his identity become an issue of concern by the authorities after his slaying, if they already knew who he was - a major player in one of the most famous train robberies in the country? The Pinkerton's had sent out many circulars to the law enforcement agencies, with photos and details about the Wild Bunch gang members. A photograph of O. C. Hanks was prominently displayed, along with a detailed description of him.

Eight years after the killing of O. C. Hanks in April 1902, Officer Pink Taylor (1860-1940) had already moved to Shreveport, Louisiana and was involved in another shooting of someone who resisted arrest. The following article was published on 17 November 1910 in Abilene, Texas.[23]

> **Man resisting arrest is shot and badly wounded**
>
> Shreveport, La., Nov. 16 - Tom Hickey was shot and badly wounded by Deputy Sheriff Pink Taylor, at Oil City, north of here, this morning. Hickey was shot while resisting arrest on a charge of selling whiskey illicitly.
>
> Following Hickey's arrest, his companions became aroused and proceeded to start a big disturbance. They literally shot up the town.

Citizens of Oil City quickly sent out an appeal for help and a large number of officers are now en route from here. Considerable excitement is felt over the situation.

Thomas Matthew Stell, Sr. (1856-1939), ca 1892. (Stell family photo collection)

Colonel Thos. M. Stell, of Cuero, Texas, had compiled a letter to the editor of the Frontier Times magazine on 14 June 1939. Less than three weeks later, Stell had died at the age of 83 on 3 July 1939 - a few weeks prior to the article being published in the Frontier Times August 1939 issue. [24]

Stell recalled that Camilla Hanks was born in DeWitt county, and he had known him during his childhood, went to school with him, and said that he came from "one of the finest families in DeWitt county". Hanks' grandfather was one of Stephen F. Austin's original Three Hundred colonists.

Stell had read a recent article about how Camilla Hanks was killed in a saloon in San Antonio by three officers who endeavored to arrest him as Camilla Hanks, a noted outlaw wanted in Montana. The key points indicated by Stell:

1- Hanks had been in San Antonio for a week or ten days [around 6 to 10 April 1902, until his death on 16 April 1902].

2- While Hanks was residing at a boarding house, the landlady observed that "he never left his room during the daytime, but kept in seclusion, reading newspapers, and only went out for an hour or two after supper; and returned by 9 or 10 o'clock PM, and immediately retired to his room. She observed that he never conversed with any of the boarders."

3- On account of his secretive manner, the landlady informed the officers, and they concluded that they would go that evening about supper time, when Hanks would be out of his room, and then interrogate him.

4- When the officers arrived, "Hanks had already eaten supper and gone into the city - so, they searched his room and found nothing of importance except a box of .45 calibre Colt revolver cartridges. They then returned to the lobby to await Hanks' coming."

5- "In a while, Hanks appeared, and as usual, started to his room without noticing anyone. When the three officers rose up, and before they had spoken a word, Hanks surmised they were officers, and I think he supposed that they were cognizant of his identity. Hanks then drew his pistol and fired one shot before the officers had spoken to him. That one shot struck an officer's belt buckle; the bullet flattened without entering the officer's body. Before Hanks could fire a second time, the officers, firing simultaneously, riddled Hanks, and he fell and expired in a few moments, without uttering a single word."

6- The officers did not know who Hanks was, but they were sure that he was a desperado and badly wanted. Except for the name [Hanks] found on his coat, he might have been buried in the potter's field without a name.

7- Stell recalled: "As the authorities did not know of a criminal by the name [Hanks] found on the coat, they did recall that there was a "Camilla Hanks" wanted in the Northwest territories for murder and train robbery. So, they communicated with the authorities in Montana, who informed them that Camilla Hanks had

come to Montana in 1881 with a herd of Texas cattle, worked on cattle ranges for several years as a peaceable, well-liked cowboy, and informed his cowboy companions that he was born and reared at Cuero, Texas."

8- Stell stated, "The Sheriff at San Antonio knew me personally, as I was sheriff of DeWitt county at that time, and he asked me to come to San Antonio and bring someone who could identify Camilla Hanks. I took with me, a first cousin of Hanks. Upon reaching San Antonio, I told the officers that I knew Camilla Hanks in his boyhood, went to school with him and knew him intimately up to his twenty or twenty-one years of existence [1881]; and while I had not seen him for seventeen or eighteen years [1884], unless he had changed very materially, I would certainly recognize him."

9- Hanks' cousin and Stell "went to the morgue to view the body, and we agreed quickly that it was Camilla. It was a very unpleasant situation for me as I gazed on the face of the dead man, and recognized him as a boyhood friend and schoolmate in the sunrise and sunshine of life, ere the wild days had drawn nigh, but my duty as an officer compelled me to voice my recognition."

10- Stell continued, "I never knew what disposition was made of the body of Camilla Hanks, but this I do know; that while he died the ignominious death of an outlaw, he had as fine a heritage of Texas ancestry bequeathed to him as ever fell to the lot of any Texas-born mortal."

Two months after the 16 April 1902 shooting and killing of O.C. Hanks in San Antonio, Texas, the following article was published on 12 June 1902 in Victoria, Texas.[25] It provided details about the arrest of Wyatt Hanks, the brother of O.C. Hanks.

O. C. Hanks' Brother Arrested

Wyatt Hanks and two other men held for passing unsigned bank notes stolen at Wagner, Montana.

A United States Secret Service agent in charge of the San Antonio District, assisted by Deputy United States Marshal Girand and Sheriffs [T. A.] Irvin of Callahan county and Goodfellow of Coleman county, have just arrested and placed in jail at Abilene, Texas, three parties supposed to be implicated in the robbery of the Northern Pacific Express at Wagner, Montana, July 3, 1901, at which time the robbers secured several thousand dollars of unsigned bank notes on various Montana banks.

The parties arrested all live in Callahan county and their names are Wyatt Hanks, the brother of O. C. Hanks, who was recently killed in San Antonio by Policeman Pink Taylor while resisting arrest; Peter Fulcher and Jess Nickell. It is charged they have been flooding this part of the county with the Montana bank notes, a number of which they had in their possession when arrested.

O. C. Hanks, who was known to have been one of the Montana train robbers, visited his brother Wyatt in Callahan county last winter, and the men arrested are said to have full possession of all facts concerning the Wagner robbery.

Nickell has made a confession, the text of which is unknown, but on the strength of which, the three men were bound over in $5,000 bonds for an examining trial. Failing to give bonds, they were placed in jail.

A week later, the following article was published on 18 June 1902 in Abilene, Texas.[26] It provided further details about the arrest of Wyatt Hanks, the brother of O. C. Hanks.

Montana Bills Dug Up
Three parties in Callahan county under arrest

Chief Wilkie of United States Secret Service orders them apprehended by wire

Special to the Register.

Abilene, Tex., June 18. - Wyatt Hanks, Peter Fulcher and Jeff Nickels, who live on the ranch of Wyatt Hanks in the central portion of Callahan county were arrested on complaint of a United States Secret Service agent and sent here today under telegraphic orders from Chief John A. Wilkie at Washington, D. C.

The Secret Service agent was assisted in the arrest by Deputy United States Marshal John Girand, T. A. Irvin, sheriff of Callahan county and Robert Goodfellow, sheriff of Coleman county.

The parties under arrest will be brought before United States Commissioner Girand on charge of having had in their possession, a lot of the unsigned Montana National bank notes which were a part of the booty obtained by the train robbers who blew open the safe of the Montana Pacific Express company on the third of July last year.

Quite a good deal of money was dug up from where it was buried in hiding places in Callahan county.

Wyatt Hanks is the son of Mrs. Cox, a trained nurse of this place. His brother was recently shot at San Antonio.

About five years later, Wyatt Hanks, the brother of O. C. Hanks was out of jail again. The following article was published on 5 December 1908 in San Antonio, Texas.[27] It indicates that Wyatt Hanks didn't know what became of his brother's grave site in San Antonio in April 1902, and that he wanted to have his brother's body buried in another lot and then place a monument over his grave. Since previous documentation indicates that the Hanks brother's mother, Laura Cox had paid for the burial of her son, O. C. Hanks in San Antonio, it makes one wonder if there had been any communication about such between mother and son. Yet, Laura Cox may have never returned to San Antonio after her son, O. C. Hanks was killed there in 1902 - and had forgotten the exact location of her son's grave.

Hanks Seeks Grave of His Brother

Wyatt Hanks, a brother of Camilla Hanks, who was shot and killed by the police in this city some five years ago while resisting arrest, called on Chief of Police Mauermann this morning, to seek information as to where his brother was buried. He told Chief Mauermann that he was here for the purpose of having the body of his brother disinterred and buried in another lot and placing a monument over his grave.

It will be remembered that the dead man was badly wanted in other parts of the state for offenses committed, and there was a standing reward offered for him. When Policeman Pink Taylor, Harvey and Hughes located the man in the Mint Saloon on the west side, they at once went to the place to arrest their man. The officers surrounded the place and as they entered by different doors, Hanks opened fire on them and they were forced to kill him in self-defense. When he was searched at the morgue, papers were found on him by the officers, which led to the recovery of a vast sum of money that he had buried on a farm in this state. The local officers were paid the reward which was offered for his capture. Wyatt Hanks was referred by the chief to the city sexton.

O.C. Hanks' father, Wyatt Hanks, Jr. (1835-1863) had received a large amount of acreage in Liberty County, Texas from his father, Wyatt Hanks, Sr. during the early 1860s - prior to him enlisting for military service for the South during the Civil War. Wyatt Hanks, Jr. died in a prisoner of war camp near Baltimore, MD in April 1863 and left a widow and three children -

O.C. Hanks being almost two and a half years old then.

Wyatt Hanks, Jr., Hanks 1835-1863
Father of O. C. (WWHA files)

In 1908, six years after the death of O.C. Hanks and about forty-five years after his father, Wyatt Hanks, Jr. died in 1863, there was a court case[28] that settled various claims to the property in Liberty County, Texas:

Roderick McDonald, Sr., Et Al vs Wyatt Hanks, Et Al
Decided 30 October 1908

A deed described the land conveyed as "640 acres situated in Liberty County, East of the Trinity River, about 25 miles above Liberty, and out of the North one-half of Isaiah Fields' head right league, it being the East end of 1,700 acres sold by the aforesaid Fields to William D. Smith, and conveyed to me, Wyatt Hanks, by power of attorney."

"Wyatt Hanks, Jr., died in the year 1863; Richard S. Hanks died in the year 1873, and plaintiffs in this case are their descendants and the legal heirs of said Wyatt Hanks, Jr., and Richard S. Hanks, except the plaintiff, Laura Cox, who is the surviving wife of Wyatt Hanks, Jr."

"Wyatt Hanks, Jr., having died in 1863, and the plaintiff in this case, Laura Cox, who was the surviving wife of Wyatt Hanks, Jr., paid the taxes upon this land for a long number of years after her husband's death."

"The conclusions of law, that the plaintiffs were entitled to recover, and the judgment in their favor. The facts found can result in no other legal conclusion than that the *plaintiffs are entitled to the land.* Finding no reversible error, the judgment is affirmed."

During 1910, Camilla's mother's Laura A. Cox (widowed, age 71), continued to reside in Abilene, Texas.[29] On 10 July 1927, Camilla Hanks' mother, now named Laura Amanda Bookreson passed away at the ripe old age of eighty eight in Abilene, Texas.[30] She had resided in the Abilene, Texas area for many years.

O.C. Hanks descended from prominent Texas ancestors on both sides of his family. His paternal grandfather, Wyatt Hanks, Sr. (1795–1862) was a judge, Texas patriot, and member of the General Council. In 1832, he participated as captain and camp adjutant in the Battle of Nacogdoches, which resulted in the permanent removal of all Mexican Federal forces from East Texas. By 1854, Wyatt Hanks, Sr. owned over 29,000 acres of land.[31] On 5 August 1841, the *Texas Centinel* reported that "the Hon. Wyatt Hanks, who is a candidate to represent that county in the next Congress ..."

Laura Amanda DeMoss Hanks (1838-1927) was the mother of O.C. Hanks and the daughter of Lewis DeMoss (1803-1856)[32] - born in St. Louis, Missouri on 28 February1803, died in Texas on 17 October 1856. O.C. Hanks' maternal grandfather, Lewis DeMoss was a Texas pioneer and an Old Three Hundred Colonist.[33] Lewis DeMoss served with Captain Horton's Mounted Rangers, and escaped capture on 19-20 March 1836 - under Captain Albert C. Horton and Lt. James W. Moore.[34]

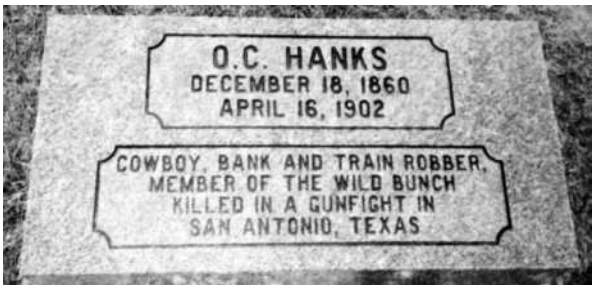
In 1979, as part of their "Wild Bunch" collection of toys, the Kenner toy company manufactured a "fast-draw action figure" of O.

C. Hanks, which was associated with the 1979 movie, in which O. C. Hanks was played by Brian Dennehy in, *Butch and Sundance: The Early Days*.

O.C. Hanks fast-action figure by Kenner

Thus, ends the history of Orlando Camilla Hanks, except for the efforts by the Wild West History Association to have his known grave location in San Antonio Cemetery #4 marked with a new tombstone. On 28 January 2023, members of the Wild West History Association gathered together for a memorial stone unveiling for Orlando Camilla Hanks in San Antonio. The grave site of Hanks had been unmarked for many years - possibly, well over a Century.

No matter the general attitude toward "honoring" outlaws, even such men and women should have their final resting places marked - if for nothing more than the recognition of their history. O. C. Hanks deserves that much!



Hank's Grave
From Memorial Stone Unveiling for Orlando Camilla Hanks program by Chuck Parsons, 2023. Photo courtesy Kurt House.

ENDNOTES:

[1] Handwritten records of Laura Amanda DeMoss Hanks, the mother of Orlando Camilla Hanks. Notes from the Hanah Olivia Hanks Martin (1857-1929) family.

[2] Tombstone inscription - Wyatt Hanks died 10 April 1863.

[3] 1870 Federal census, DeWitt Co. TX, Clinton P.O., page 32, line 18.

[4] Marriage License #1139, DeWitt Co., TX.

[5] Various sources indicate that James W. Cox was ambushed, shot several times, and then had his throat slashed during the violent Sutton-Taylor feud in Texas.

[6] DeWitt Co., Texas, County court minutes, volume B, 1880-1888, pp 639-640.

[7] San Augustine Ranch history.

[8] Pinkerton Detective Agency files.

[9] 1900 Federal census, Taylor Co. TX, Abilene, sheet 6-B, line 83.

[10] 10 July 1901, *River Press*, Fort Benton, Montana.

[11] 27 November 1901, *The Butte Inter Mountain*, Montana.

[12] 28 November 1901, *The Butte Inter Mountain*, Montana.

[13] 23 April 1902, *San Antonio Express*, Texas.

[14] 17 April 1902, *Daily Light*, San Antonio, Texas. Pg 3.

[15] 18 April 1902, *Paducah Sun*, Kentucky.
[16] 18 April 1902, *San Francisco Call*, California.
[17] 19 April 1902, *Anaconda Standard*, Montana.
[18] 20 April 1902, *San Antonio Express*, Texas.
[19] 20 April 1902, *San Francisco Call*, California.
[20] 30 April 1902, *San Antonio Express*, Texas.
[21] November 1907, *Train robberies, train robbers and the "holdup" men*. Address by William A. Pinkerton. Annual Convention, International Association Chiefs of Police. Jamestown, Virginia. Page 76.
[22] *Proceedings of the Convention of the American Bankers' Association, Volume 1902*
By American Bankers Association. Convention November 11, 12 and 13 1902, page 26.
[23] 17 November 1910, *Abilene Daily Reporter*, Texas.
[24] August 1939, Frontier Times, Thomas M. Stell, "Tells of Killing of Camilla Hank", pp 486-487. Stell was sheriff of DeWitt County, Texas from 8 Nov 1882 - 6 Nov 1906.
[25] 12 June 1902, *Daily Advocate*, Victoria, Texas, pg. 1.
[26] 18 June 1902, *Abilene Register*, Texas.
[27] 5 Dec 1908, *San Antonio Gazette*, pg. 2.
[28] *The Texas Civil Appeals Reports*, Alfred E. Wilkinson, Reporter, Texas Supreme Court, October, November and December 1908, Volume 52, pp 140-153.
[29] 1910 Federal census, Taylor Co., TX, Abilene Ward 3, sheet 11-B.
[30] State of Texas death certificate, Laura A. Bookreson, #25113, date of death: 10 July 1927. Informant: J. W. Cox (her son).
[31] Handbook of Texas, Texas State Historical Association.
[32] Tombstone marker for Lewis DeMoss, McCrabb Cemetery, Cuero, DeWitt, Texas.
[33] 3 December 2007, Heritage Auctions, Dallas, Texas, auction. Statesman, Stephen F. Austin, Empresario certificate, signed.
[34] U. S. Military records, Lewis DeMoss.

William A. "Billy" Mills

William A. Mills has researched court and cemetery records since 1985. The author of seven books and a former historical consultant for TV's "Who Do You Think You Are", he is currently researching Billy the Kid, focusing on the outlaw's mysterious early years. He has written several articles about western outlaws for the WWHA *Journal, True West* magazine, and *Strange West* magazine.