Saddlebag Newsletter
APRIL 2024

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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.

Our YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/@WildWestHistoryAssociation/videos is now monetized so WWHA gets paid for views**. Please subscribe, watch and like our videos.**

We had a very fun and productive Regional Roundup, UNHOLSTERING HISTORY March 23, 2024 in Boerne, Texas. WWHA member Kurt House spoke on the Sisterdale Gun and we got to tour the home and shop where this important historical gun was manufactured. Ron Woggon and Jean Smith spoke on Fred Dodge, who is best known for his time in Tombstone, Arizona and his friendship with Wyatt Earp, as well as his time spent tracking bad guys for Wells Fargo. New information has been discovered and Jean and Ron are looking forward to sharing new discoveries. Stay tuned for more on their research. The Boerne Library had a month long display on Fred Dodge since he lived, died and is buried in Boerne.

Kurt House, Roy Young and Ron Chrisman

Doug Dukes and Kurt House

Ribbon cutting at the Dodge exhibit at the Boerne Public Library

Idaho regional Roundup a big success

Over 160 people attended Idaho Wild West Roundup that was held March ,9 at the Owyhee County Museum in Murphy Idaho. Presentations included Idaho Trading Posts, Outlaw Hank Vaughn, Butch Cassidy in Argentina , the 1880 Idaho Prison breakout and the Astorian Expedition. Fort Boise Garrison went through the life of a Garrisoned soldier in the old west. As usual Wyoming Rancher Joe Hickey's 19th century gun collection was given lots of attention. Marie Clyne is one of our stars with her yearly western women's program. This year she presented a fashion show between programs showing fashions from the 1860-1890 era. (she sews all her own outfits). We had people attend from Idaho, Oregon, Utah. Wyoming and Washington. We received many compliments about the event.

Astoria Expedition

Crowd is entertained in full costume.

Attention Historians & Researchers!
How To Read Unreadable Grave Headstones
(With Recessed/Indented Letters)

Eddie Lanham
March 2024

I don't know how many hours I have spent researching in cemeteries, only to find that many of the headstones, due to wear, were unreadable.

I could claim that I invented what I am about to tell you, but I am not…as an aged photographer, about 40 years ago, passed this method down to me. So, I will do for you, what he did for me. I challenge you to also pass it down.

You won't need any fancy tools or expensive chemicals, just a spray can of white shaving cream (I use Barbasol) and water for cleanup, or take a small pump-up sprayer filled with water to clean the surface.

No tools, except a plastic 4-6" wide cheap PLASTIC putty knife which can be purchased in most any paint department. You can use your hand, but it is messy.

Now, if you happen upon a headstone covered in moss, you will have to scrape off the growth. Most uprights have no moss, but some flat ones may, especially in more humid areas.

So…listen closely…or watch the video.

First thing I do is to have everything ready, especially in the summer, as the shaving cream seems to soon evaporate. Have your camera ready. Be sure and take a before and after shot.

Step one: Use the putty knife or your hand to apply the shave cream over the indented inscriptions on the marker. Make sure you apply it thick enough to fill all of the letters.

Take your time, in a hurry, and wipe off the excess with a plastic putty knife, or the palm of your hand. The letters will look like you painted them with bright white paint!

Take a picture or write the words on a notepad.

After completion, take your water and wash off the shaving cream as well as you can, rain will do the

rest. (I take a gallon of water and use a sponge to wipe it clean) The shave cream will not damage the headstone.

If you watch the video, it will show-and-tell. Please like, comment and subscribe. If you have questions, please post a civil comment and I will answer.

Here is our latest YouTube schedule. Please watch, like and subscribe.
https://www.youtube.com/@WildWestHistoryAssociation/videos

1. Peter Brand, From Lawmen to Outlaws. 4-4-24
2. Untold Stories of the First Wild West Range Wars. 4-11-24
3. Lonely Graves Found of Texas Ranger James Callahan's Killers. 4-18-24
4. From Lonesome Dove to Texas, Unveiling the Untold Journey of the Real Cowboy: Jake Spoon. 4-25-24
5. Cavalry, Infantry, Cochise and the Start of an Apache War. 5-2-24

Senate Introduces Key Bill for Battlefield Preservation

In early January, the [American Battlefield] Trust celebrated the introduction of the American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act, H.R. 3448, in the U.S. Senate. The bill, introduced by Senators Tim Kane and Cindy Hyde-Smith, aims to strengthen the already successful American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), administered by the National Park Service.

Since 2002, the program has been used to save more than 35,000 acres of hallowed ground in 20 states. Due to its continued success, the program's funding has increased from an initial authorized level of $2 million in 2002 to $20 million in 2019.

The new legislation enhances the existing program by allowing non-profits and tribes to directly apply for land preservation grants. It also clarifies the scope of the program, ensuring it is used only on the most significant battlefield sites. Additionally, it provides the National Park Service with a mechanism to update battlefield boundaries when new research and information allow.

The companion legislation, H.R. 3448, passed the House of Representatives in early November with widespread bipartisan support.

We thank *Civil War News* Publisher Jack W. Melton Jr. for permitting us to forward this information!
Lee & Michele Noyes, *Past Editors,* CBHMA ***Battlefield Dispatch***

Be sure and read the latest section of the *Journal*, "Imponderables."

The Texas Revolution

There is no right or wrong answer.

Lewis and Clark

Cattle Drive

17 Annual WWHA Roundup, Fort Smith Arkansas, July 17-20, 2024

Wyndham Hotel, be sure and say you are with WWHA for group rates.
Telephone 479-783-1000 option 3.

The Roundup registration form and information is on our website, wildwesthistory.org

The schedule will soon be posted on the website

Drew Gomber, Lincoln County Historian, will be laid to rest in the military cemetery at Fort Stanton, Friday, April 26 at 1:00 p.m. with full military honors. Everyone is welcome to attend. He is missed by historians and friends alike.

Nominations Open

Nominations are open for Board of Directors positions on the WWHA Board. Nominations may be made by the candidate or by another WWHA member who has the permission of the nominee to be nominated. The process for making nominations is two-fold. The first aspect of the nomination process, and the most preferred, is that nominations be made in writing and include the following information: the candidate's name, home address, home and cell phone numbers, and e-mail address. Other requested information include: basic background, current interests (including those related to the Wild West), special skills, current employment, and a brief list of other groups, causes, projects, etc., to which the nominee has contributed. Finally, a statement, in 250 words or more, why the nominee should be elected to the board of the Wild West History Association. If the nomination is made by someone other than the candidate, please add the nominator's name and contact information, both phone and e-mail. The other allowable way to make a nomination is from the floor during the annual membership meeting at a Roundup.

Each nominee is requested to appear before the current board of directors for an opportunity to discuss their nomination and thoughts and ideas for consideration by the board.

Some of the expectations of a board member: the ability to attend two board meetings per year, one - during the annual Roundup, and the other - in January, at a location to-be-determined by board vote. Additionally, several Internet 'Zoom' meetings are conducted, as called by the president. Each board member is asked to participate on one or more committees. The deadline date is firm: June 30, 2022.

The WWHA bylaws provide for the elected members of the board to select their own officers.

Please contact Paul Marquez at marque64@comcast.net, for further information.