Saddlebag Newsletter

Roy B. Young, Editor
royyoung@pldi.net

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

Welcome to the *Saddlebag* Newsletter. 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.

July – August 2023

WWHA Journal – September 2023

The September 2023 issue of the WWHA *Journal* will be mailed to the membership the first week of September. It will include articles by the following members: Richard Derham – Dave Rudabaugh, A Myth Deconstructed, Part Two; Dr. James Bailey – Frontier Medicine; Donald Chaput – Ike Clanton's Folly; Randal Long – Deputy US Marshal James R. Cole; J. David Holt – A History Mystery Now Solved; Mike Mihaljevich – An Epidemic of Shooting; Mike Cox – Texas Rangers, Part Seven. Plus Roundup Report, news, letters to the editor, book reviews, and more.

Roundup News

The 16th Annual WWHA Roundup was a resounding success. Great program with outstanding speakers, excellent crowd of members and guests, $$$ auctions, scrumptious food, great accommodations, friends and fellowship.

The WWHA Board of Directors has announced the next several years of Roundup locations across the western states – the Wild West of our dreams:

2024 – Fort Smith, Arkansas; 2025 Carson City, Nevada; 2026 Santa Fe New Mexico, 2027, Kansas City, Missouri.

Subscribe to the WWHA YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/c/wildwesthistoryassociation (free) and you will be notified when each of the new videos listed below is released. Upcoming videos:

Who Killed Johnny Ringo; Bass Reeves 1883 Mini Series; Captain Sam Walker and the Battle of Walker Creek; Dead Man's Hole; Tombstone Hills and the Clanton Ranch; The Great Commanche Raid; Ash Upson, The Man Who Invented Billy the Kid; Black Bart, The Gentleman Bandit; A Last Serenade for Billy Bonney; The YO Ranch Headquarters; Child Captaives of Commanche and Apache Indians; Scott Cooley, Comanche Indian Fighter; Calamity Jane; Outlaw O.C. Hanks Headstone Dedication; Brown Bowen Hanged by Mistake?

Editor Search Concludes With Hiring of Matt Bernstein

WWHA is proud to announce the appointment of our new *Journal* editor, Matthew 'Matt' Bernstein. Matt will take over January 1, 2024 replacing long-time editor Roy B. Young, who will enter retirement from editing.

Contact information for Matt will be forthcoming. For the time being, all new article submissions should continue to be sent to Roy; they will be given to Matt, with all decisions about publication being in his hands starting with volume 17 of the WWHA *Journal*.

Here's an introduction to Matt:

Matt Bernstein has a passion for history. While earning a Master's at Cal State University, Northridge, Bernstein tracked intertextuality in the works Dashiell Hammett. Later, he became a frequent contributor to *Wild West* magazine and wrote the book *George Hearst: Silver King of the Gilded Age*, the first full-fledged biography of the mining tycoon. His most recent book is *Hanging Charley Flinn: The Short and Violent Life of the Boldest Criminal in Frontier California*. Due out in 2025 is *Team of Giants: How Theodore Roosevelt, "Fighting Joe" Wheeler, and William Randolph Hearst Ignited the Spanish-American War*.

Along with teaching writing at Los Angeles City College and Harris Newmark High School, Matt can frequently be found hiking through the California wilderness and along the Pacific Crest Trail. Side trips to Machu Picchu, Mt. Kilimanjaro, and the awe-inspiring U.S. National Parks round out his quest for adventure. He joins the Wild West History Association, honored to take the reins at the *Journal*, and excited for the journey to come.

Welcome Matt – the "welcome mat" is out and ready for your appearance!

Roundup Rotogravure

All photos by Madison and Louis Harrell – More pictures will be in the Sept. *Journal*

WWHA Board of Directors 2022-2023
(l to r) Roy B. Young, Pam Potter, Tim Hagaman, Jim Bailey, Jean Smith, Jim Dunham, Alan Blanchette, Donna Harrell, Charlotte Steele, Kurt House, Ruth McWhirter, Elizabeth Weathers, Gerald Schaefer

Texas Rangers Panel:
(l to r) John Boessenecker, Harold Weiss, Mike Cox, Chuck Parsons

Opening Reception group at the Buckhorn Saloon
Rosalie and Dow Heard, Steve LeSeur, Bradley Nevill, Paul Johnson

The McCubbin Family
(l to r) Jason, Sheryl, Elija, Alex, Don, Tacey, Bobby, Kristina

Frank and Christina Abrams

Alan Blanchette and Margaret Bailey

Paul Marquez and John Boessenecker

Randy Lish

Bill O'Neal

Dave George

Sharon Graue and Nancy Horswill

Mike Youngman and Gerald Schaefer

Peter Brand

Keith Dameron and Jonathan Gurney

Mary Cary, aka Crockett Boone

Mike Mayberry and Pam Potter

Tim and Ellen Hagaman

Jason Ramirez and Graciano Ramirez

Faro Game Instruction

Kurt House and Sara Hunter

Historian Norman Wayne Brown Goes Home

Written by *Chuck Parsons*

Norman Wayne Brown of Justiceburg, Texas, author of western history books and articles, passed away quietly Sunday, July 16, 2923. He had had an active life and had retired from the Air Force (as disabled). His second career was with the Texas State Parole Board from which he retired prior to his increased interest in writing about the Wild West. Besides several articles published in the *Journal* of the Wild West History Association, his work has appeared in *True West* and the *Tombstone Epitaph*.

His latest work is represented with an anthology of previously published articles from the *Tombstone Epitaph* and *True West*, with co-author Chuck Parsons, entitled *Bad Blood: The Violent Lives of John Wesley Hardin, His Brothers, And Associates* (Eakin Press, Fort Worth, 2022). This work followed *Man Hunter in Indian Country: George Redman Tucker Deputy U.S. Marshal* (Eakin Press, Fort Worth). In 2013 Norm Brown and Chuck Parsons co-authored the biography: *A Lawless Breed: John Wesley Hardin, Texas Reconstruction and Violence in the Wild West* (Univ. of North Texas Press, Denton).

On his own, in 2013 Brown edited and published *Life on the Texas Frontier: Texas Ranger Tales, 1855-1880.* In 2017 his book *Watering the Drags: The Life and Tomes of W.E. Connell, Pioneer Cowboy, Rancher, and Banker* appeared. In addition to works dealing with western history he has authored, with Sarah Bellian, *Early Settlers of the Panhandle Plains* and a history of *Sheppard Air Force Base.*

WWHA wished to send our condolences to his family and friends.

J. David Holt to Present Program

WWHA member J. David Holt will be giving a presentation on his September *Journal* article "A History Mystery Now Solved," at the Buena Vista, Colorado Library on Thursday, September 14 at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

An Interesting Exchange Between Two WWHA Members And Information on King Fisher and John Leakey

June 14, 2023

To: Kurt House
Wild West History Association, Board Member

From: Sylvia Gann Mahoney
West Texas Historical Association, President, 2023-2024

Kurt,

I am a member of Wild West History Association since I spoke at the Annual Roundup in Fort Worth. I noticed in the *WWHA Journal,* June 2023, that you will speak in San Antonio on "Death of Ben Thompson & King Fisher. Who Was In Charge?"

In my *Great Western Trail* book, I included an event related to the GWT, King Fisher, and a GWT drover who stayed in North Dakota and is in the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame. As a historian, I feel you might enjoy a small but significant view into the friendship of Fisher and his early day ranching neighbor John Leakey on the Nueces Strip.

This story relates to *Lonesome Dove* [fiction name for *Great Western Trail*] and Call taking Gus back to Texas to be buried. In Miles City, Montana, where we dedicated a GWT post. I stood in front [took a photo] of the Olive Hotel, where Gus died after going up the GWT.

Kansas still has a bill before Congress, Chisholm and Western Trail. They have been given documentation that the Western Trail is a segment of the Chisholm Trail. ND Senator John Hoeven has written a bill [yet to be filed] that is historically correct—includes all the Great Plains GWT states, not like Kansas that deleted all the states north of Nebraska. Sen. Hoeven has been reluctant to file his bill / Kansas' refusal to consider the documented truth.

Regarding my research document, in the peer-reviewed, *West Texas Historical Review*. the name *Great Western Trail,* used during the active trail days, 1874-1893, the reason the National Park System historian gave for not naming the GWT as a national historic trail. The NPS superintendent and historian's response to this documentation, "It is out of our hands. Check with your US Senators and Representatives. "

A recent GWT Newsletter tells about North Dakota setting GWT posts/obelisks north across that state. It was a ND major event and a joyous occasion with so many people who love history and work to have history historically correct.

A Back Story of Friendship between King Fisher and John Leakey, South Texas rancher who went up the Great Western Trail to deliver his longhorn herd in North Dakota; he stayed ranching for 60 years, was inducted into the ND Cowboy Hall of Fame, and made a trip home to find King Fisher's grave, to put his name on a tombstone, which he did.

Mahoney, Sylvia Gann. *Finding the Great Western Trail* (Lubbock: Texas Tech U Press, 2015) pp. 200, 201, from Leakey, John. *The West That Was: From Texas to Montana*, as told to Nellie Snyder Yost (Lincoln: U of Nebraska Press, 1965)

Excerpt, pp. 200, 201, in *Finding the Great Western Trail*: It is first-person history of the joy of connecting with trail drivers' families, a bonding with cattle trail history, Great Western Trail, that has brought a love for the truth about history and a bond with those that live on the GWT in three countries.

"As awareness of the trail [Great Western Trail] research project expanded, people provided new primary evidence from their family's history collections, sometimes serendipitously. While visiting [elderly] friends, Gussie Allmer [caregiver] mentioned John Leakey, her trail-driver grandfather. He had trailed cattle from Texas to Montana. She offered an out-of-print book he had written about his trip from South Texas near Uvalde to eastern Montana and western North Dakota. As many Texas trail drivers did, Leakey stayed in North Dakota to ranch and raise his family.

"That trail-era autobiography, *The West That Was,* captured the trail-era memories of drover John Leakey. He carved out a life in North Dakota that led to his induction into the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame. Leakey was honored for being a founder and first president of the North Dakota Stockgrowers Association. [http://John Leakey," North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame.com/Hall_of_Fame/ranching/leakey_john.asp.] One incident in Leakey's life illustrated the spirit of the trail. He told of his effort to honor a friend by marking his grave. The Leakey family ranch in South Texas had joined King Fisher's ranch. Fisher, a notorious person associated with the Nueces Strip, had become a famous local sheriff. On March 22, 1884, [date in Leakey's book] Fisher and US Marshall Ben Thompson were killed in San Antonio in the line of duty, in an incident later known as the Vaudeville Theater Ambush. After a large funeral, Thompson was buried in Austin. Fisher was buried on his ranch near Leakey.[from Leakey's book]

"After ranching for sixty years in North Dakota, John Leakey returned to Texas to search for Fisher's grave. He found Fisher's unmarked grave in Pioneer Cemetery in Uvalde. He cleaned the overgrowth of weeds and placed a marker on it. Given Leakey's honors in North Dakota and the many years that had passed since he left Texas, his return to Texas to mark Fisher's grave seemed unusual. South Texas rancher King Fisher had lived on both sides of the law. However, he had been a neighbor and friend. The trail culture seemed to inspire a need for cowboys to be buried in a marked place in the earth near a place they called home and to have friends who honor that need for a burial spot.

"John Leakey's history had another twist. At the 2011 National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration in Lubbock, Leakey's history, North Dakota, and Teddy Roosevelt came together. Two noted Roosevelt experts addressed the subject in a panel discussion, *Teddy Roosevelt: How the Dakota Years Influenced His Political Legacy and Still Influences National Issues Today*. One of the panelists, Darrell Dorgan, North Dakota National Cowboy Hall of Fame executive director, based his portion on Roosevelt's Dakota years. The other panelist, Dr. Richard Slatta, North Carolina State University history professor, addressed national issues and the political legacy. They were a well-recognized team: Dorgan's documentary, *Theodore Roosevelt: A Cowboy's Ride to the White House*, had been nominated for an Emmy Award. Slatta's nine books on the cowboy era often included Roosevelt, who had adopted a cowboy persona. Both panelists described efforts by Roosevelt that had helped bring national recognition to the cowboy, especially including his friendships with Western author Owen Wister and Western artist/sculptor Frederick Remington.

"The panelists discussed Teddy Roosevelt and North Dakota, which related to the trail [Great Western Trail]. The Leakey, Texas, connection, however, followed the conclusion of the formal discussion. The Celebration's chuck wagon cook-off was in progress on a large grassy area outside the convention center. The chuck wagon was originally designed by cattle-trail boss Charles Goodnight as a portable kitchen for a cook to serve drovers. The teams at the chuck wagon cook-off, arranged in a horseshoe design, were ready to serve their meals of chicken-fried steaks, beans, and cobbler.

"Darrell Dorgan had chuck wagon tickets and invited me to go. While deciding which wagon would get our two tickets, Darrell stopped to visit the Hawk's Nest chuck wagon group from Leakey, Texas. He inquired about any knowledge of kin of drover John Leakey. One woman with biscuit flour on her apron, a large smile, and a robust voice said she, Linda Kirkpatrick, was kin to him. Darrell forged North Dakota to Texas connections related to John Leakey. I took a photo of Linda and Darrell. The photo of Gussie's long-lost Leakey relative was included in the book when I returned it to her. These examples of trail-era kinship and relationships were common at on-site locations along the trail. The trail history chronicled in this book is personal, memorable history for so many individuals." [200-201]

My comment: Great Western Trail, 1874-1893, served two new markets, 1.South Texas rancher John T. Lytle's 1874 inaugural GWT trip, a humanitarian need, to Nebraska to starving Sioux Native Americans on reserves, and later in 24 reservations in northern states. The second GWT market delivered specific types, ages, sizes of longhorns to populate the vast open-range grasslands, void of buffalo eradicated by hunters. Most intergenerational ranches on the Great Plains originated from south Texas longhorns that went up the GWT.

John T. Lytle delivered 3,600 longhorns to Sioux Chief Red Cloud at Red Cloud Agency at Fort Robinson, Camp Robinson (later, Fort Robinson), Nebraska. Chief Red Cloud had been invited by President Grant to visit him in Washington, DC, to learn first-person what was happening in the Great Plains. The Chief signed for Lytle's herd, and General George Armstrong

Custer signed and paid in gold for the military in 1874, two-years before the Battle of Little Bighorn. (This colorful history was collected from several different documented history books–a great addendum to Taylor Sheridan's *Yellowstone'*s series for TV.)

The *Chisholm Trail* served one market, cattle to railheads in Kansas to ship longhorns to slaughterhouses for Easterners who had learned to love beef instead of pork during the Civil War. Drovers from south Texas drove longhorns to Kansas railheads on the east side of Kansas. Tick fever legislation closed parts of Kansas starting from the eastern-side railheads, forcing longhorns in 1876 to the western side of Kansas, the last new railhead at Dodge City.

Earlier, John T. Lytle had blazed the *Great Western Trail* over new territory, passing by the rag town Dodge City, a buffalo haven, going north before it became a railhead in 1876 for eastern beef. When eastern Kansas was closed by legislation to longhorns and the only railhead option was the new railhead at Dodge City, Kansas, south Texas drovers soon followed Lytle's GWT path, a shorter route to a Kansas railhead. Thus, the *Western Trail,* a segment of the *Chisholm Trai*l, was used occasionally, even though, more often, destination names for supplies were used: the Trail, Fort Griffin, Camp Supply, Dodge.

PUT THIS ON YOUR FALL CALENDAR

"Terror in Tombstone" Gunfights and Fighters of the High Desert

Tombstone Territory Rendezvous
October 25 to 29th
Tombstone Arizona

Speakers: Donna Harrell, Doug Hocking, Paul Johnson, John Kowalski, Mike Mihaljevich, Bob Palmquist, Pam Potter, Chuck Smith, Gil Storms, Mark Warren, Ron Woggon, Roy B. Young, Nancy Sosa, Jean Smith, and more