Saddlebag Newsletter
September 2024

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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.

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, and you are contributing to WWHA. It is free and a win-win for WWHA**

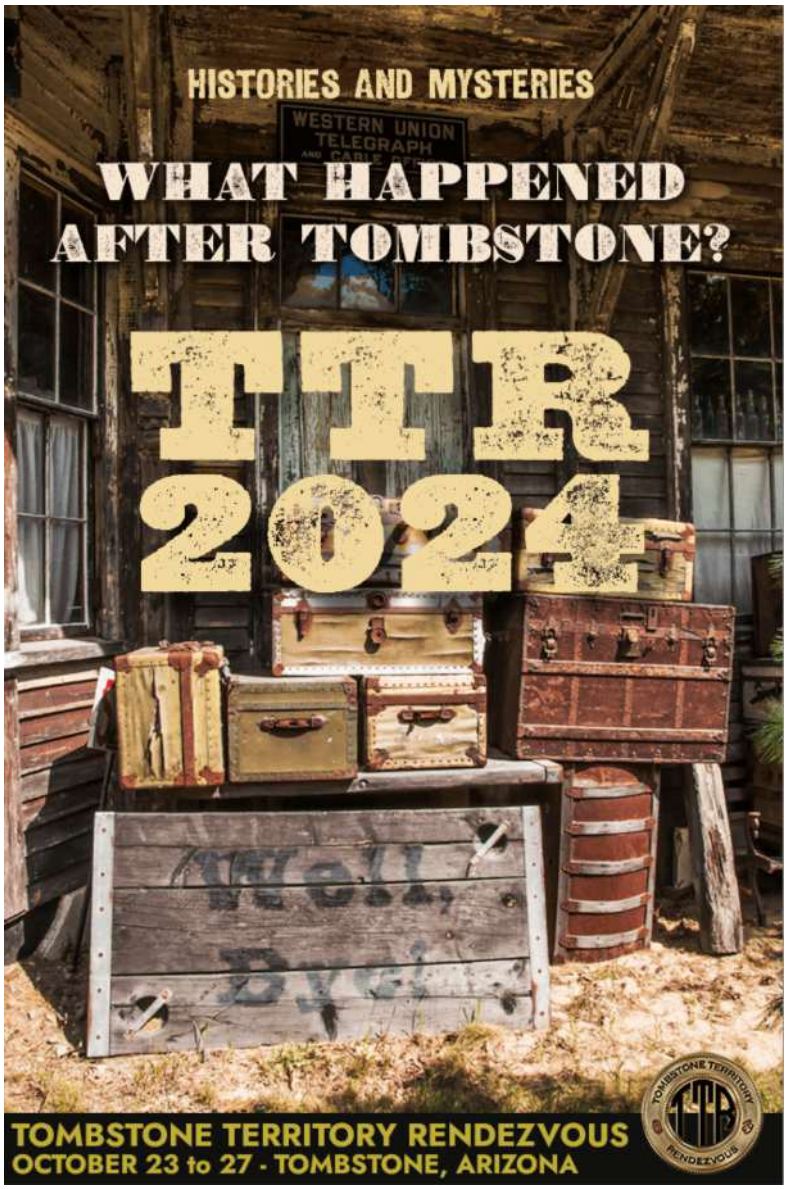
On August 6, WWHA dedicated a memorial tombstone for John Wallace Green, better known by his alias "Frank Stewart" in the Raton, New Mexico, Fairmont Cemetery with some 40 people in attendance, including eight members of WWHA. In 1881 Stewart was the co-leader of the posse that chased and captured Billy the Kid and some of his cohorts at Stinking Spring, east of Fort Sumner, New Mexico. Since his death in 1935, his remains have laid in an unmarked grave in the cemetery. Cemetery records did not specify the grave's location. Upon finding the cemetery in which he was buried, his biographers, Kurt House and Roy B. Young, who wrote the book *Chasing Billy the Kid: The Untold Story of the Manhunt for William H. Bonney*, were able to secure a cemetery plot near to where he is believed to have been buried. The cemetery sexton, provided a spot on

the side of a hill for the tombstone to be placed. WWHA has placed several markers for previously unmarked graves and repaired others. There will be more information in our upcoming Journal. Shown left to right Bob Pulcipher, Kurt House, Roy Young and Paul Marquez.

A look back at how WWHA has helped restore grave markers.

MARSHALL ASHMUN
UPSON

TOMBSTONE TERRITORY RENDEZVOUS 2024



AND
WILD WEST HISTORY ASSOCIATION REGIONAL ROUNDUP October 23 - 27, 2024
Histories and Mysteries: What Happened After Tombstone Eric Erdman, Emcee
Presenters:

Doug Hocking - Tom Jeffords, After Tombstone, A Bit of This and That

Chuck Hornung - Not Another Tombstone: Josie and Wyatt in New Mexico's Colfax County War

Mike Mihaljevich - Bird Cage After Closure and Post Mining Era

Gary Ohls - From Lawman to Legend: The Legacy of "Bat" Masterson

Pam Potter - Sleepless in Seattle, Tombstone Trifecta

Chuck Smith - The Black Faced Bandit

Jean Smith - Fred J Dodge's Undercover Family After Tombstone

Nancy Sosa - Horatio Collins

Gil Storms - John Phillip Clum After Tombstone: 1882 – 1932

Ron Woggon – Wells Fargo Detective Fred J Dodge: The Charles A Beeler Case

Roy Young - Ed & Al Schieffelin - Whatever Happened to Tombstone's Founders

Heather Rose and Paul Johnson Presenting at St Paul's Episcopal Church - "Heaven Touches Helldorado" St Paul's First Priests Garth Gould's Book

Review Panel w/Roy Young, Gary Ohls, Pam Potter

Panel on Wyatt Earp After Tombstone - Garner Palenske, Moderator

Registration & Tailgate Party
Presentations will be held at historic 1881 Schieffelin Hall Pam Potter's Troupe Skit
Authors with Books for Sale Cowboy Poetry Tour of Mike & Marty Stout's 1880 House
Luncheon at Bird Cage with the Hunleys
Silent Auction, Raffles, and Snacks
Saturday Night Dinner at the Tombstone Monument Ranch

Sunday Cowboy Church

Go to the website: https://tombstoneterritoryrendezvous.com for more information and registration.

Roundup 2025

News and Updates

Alan Blanchette and Gerald Schaefer, 2025 Roundup Chairs, have been working hard to make the Reno Roundup one of the best ever. We will be at the Caesers Circus Circus on Casino Row in downtown Reno. There is plenty to do and restaurants galore. https://www.caesars.com/circus-

circus-reno/hotel In addition to nearby Virginia City where we will take a field trip,there are a number of historical sites in nearby Carson City, Nevada. Don't forget beautiful Lake Tahoe is close by if you can take some extra time.

The average room rate for four (4) days, Wednesday night through Saturday night, is $128.00 plus taxes. The same rate applies three (3) days prior and three (3) days after. Wednesday and Thursday night is $74.00/night and Friday and Saturday nights is $144.00 plus taxes. ,Rooms at Circus Circus can be made direct: book.passkey.com/go/SRWWH5.

Stay tuned to our website, wildwesthistory.org, The Saddlebag, Journal, Facebook and YouTube.

Join us here

Photos courtesy of
Bob Block

Tom Gaumer

1944 – 2024

We have lost another good one, gone to the last Roundup. Tom Gaumer, long time Tombstone researcher, friend and mentor to many, passed away, Sunday, August 18, 2024. Tom was born on December 22, 1944. He was living in Denver when many of us met him and he moved to Tucson to be more accessible to Tombstone research. Tom, very generously shared his research and was always willing to go to the local archives and look something up for his fellow Tombstone researchers and writers. If you called Tom and said "We ride at dawn" he would be there.

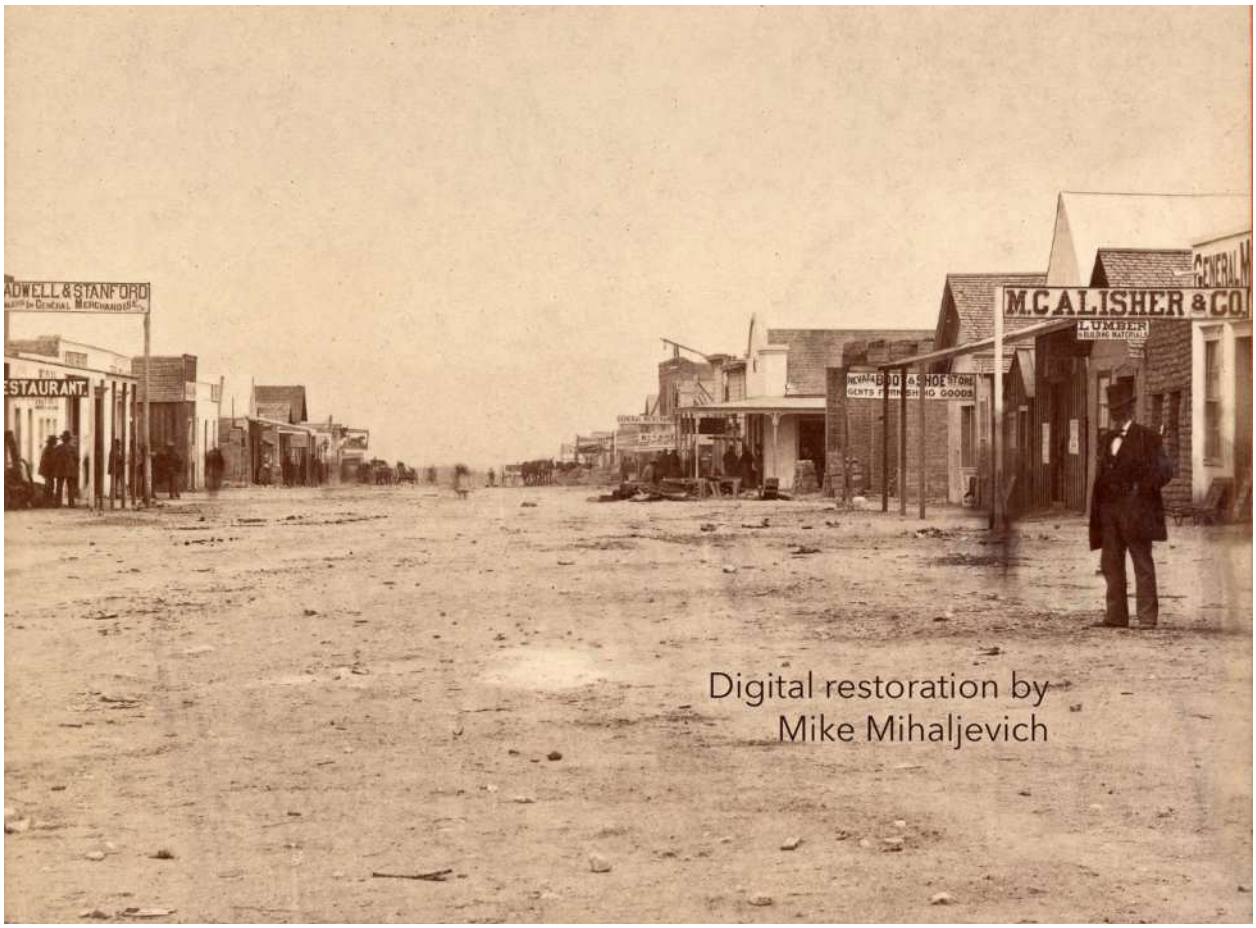
He was a frequent poster on B.J.'s Tombstone History Discussion Forum, where he originally posted under the sobriquet, "Botcheroo". That name alone tells you about Tom and his sense of humor. He became good friends with the famous and the not-so-famous in the Wyatt Earp field. Tom contributed to an article Casey Tefertiller wrote for *Wild West* in 2007 by going to Eagle Idaho and physically searching Wyatt's route. The article has been published in A WYATT EARP ANTHOLOGY. Tom was a boots on the ground researcher for many of us in the field.

Tom was also very popular in his community in Tucson, particularly his condo co-op. He was generous and kind to friends and strangers alike.

One of his friends said it best: "Tom was refreshingly different".

I once told Tom that I refused to own a copy of WYATT EARP FRONTIER MARSHAL so he sent me at least six copies. That was Tom in a nutshell.

Tom is survived by his sister Pam King and many many friends.



Several years ago I came across an intriguing artifact at a museum that left me wanting to know more about it. After following my curiosity to information sources, I returned to view the artifact

and found the experience of seeing it completely transformed. My appreciation and respect for it had grown exponentially. I hope the same will happen for some of you after reading this post about this commonly published photograph.

It's one of the best known early street scenes of Tombstone, Arizona. For those who have read any number of topical books and articles, you've likely seen it many times. While it usually compliments text involving Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, or Arizona lawlessness, the photo has a story that can stand on its own.

It was taken in late April, 1880, at a glorious time in Tombstone's coming of age. The viewer is placed on Allen Street very near Sixth looking west towards Fifth with a direct view of the town's growth spurt in full swing.

The man behind the camera was 50 year old Carleton Watkins. He wasn't in Tombstone on a leisurely sight seeing adventure or a vacation or to seek mineral wealth. Arriving in San Francisco as a young man decades earlier he mastered the difficulties of chemical based photography and built a photo studio that earned him esteem among many social, political and business leaders. In 1875 he lost it all when the bank that financed his enterprise went under. To square his bills he sold 25 years worth of irreplaceable photographic work from all over the West to a local competitor and started over again. His trip to Tombstone was part of the long financial rebuilding process. Even as he boarded the train from San Francisco to Arizona in the spring of 1880, he didn't have enough money to make the trip. En route he had to execute client work to cover travel expenses. Once he arrived in Arizona he waited on money sent to him from his wife who was scraping together a few sales at his gallery. He was one step below living paycheck-to-paycheck, because after all there was no paycheck guarantee.

Photographs he produced in and around Tombstone had to sell. The confidence he had in that might indicate the kinds of conversations about Tombstone that were going on in San Francisco at the time. But once he got there the elements battled him. Hot and dry conditions not only made him uncomfortable, it pitted him against blowing dust — the arch enemy of every period field photographer. His transportation around the area included a specialized wagon pulled by a team of mangy horses that disobeyed his commands. Arthritis in his neck made it hard to tote his mammoth plate camera which weighed over 50 pounds. An advanced tooth abscess made his first days in the area misery. With no money for accommodations he slept wherever he could, one night finding respite in a pile of hay and the next night a place "not half so good" as he wrote his wife.

Carleton battled it all as he set up his stereo camera on Allen Street amid the bustle of Tombstone's boom. A few onlookers stopped and observed him at work. One man finely dressed in attire fitting of an established businessman stayed in place as Carleton executed the shot. Two impatient men on either side of him walked away halfway through the exposure (rendering as ghostly streaks in the final image).

The street before him was littered with rocks and debris, fitting for how rough hewn Tombstone still was. On either side were buildings — some still of temporary canvas, but many of adobe which signified the town was trending towards permanence. Down the right side of the street the second story of the Cosmopolitan was being added — a Tombstone first. A group of men clamored under the awning and in the doorway of the Golden Eagle Brewery (present day Crystal Palace) perhaps debating the hot topic of property rights that gripped early Tombstone.

Just before the Golden Eagle stands the unfinished walls of the Oriental saloon, with piles of unattended adobe bricks waiting to be installed. Its construction was finished shortly after Carleton left. Directly next door, Nellie Cashman's Nevada boot and shoe store was doing great

business with the miners. On the dirt sidewalk, Nellie placed a sign out front advertising "repairing neatly done" for budget conscious or down on their luck miners not ready for a new pair. Down the street is a cluster of wagons, more adobe walls under construction, dozens of men rumbling about, and many businesses serving an eager and buzzing population. The constant murmur of conversation mixed with horse hooves, hammers swinging, and an occasional outburst filled Carleton's ears. It's not just a street scene, it is a photograph of boom town madness!

In all, Carleton took 42 photographs in and around Tombstone. Many of them included mines and the industrial infrastructure that was of interest to potential photographic customers back in San Francisco. He also keyed in on permanent buildings and accommodations for lodging and stage travel — elements that communicated the degree of wealth being realized. To those with experience, these things signified the mines were legitimate. Six of those 42 photographs gift us a clear view of Tombstone's Allen street during its most storied period. None exemplify it quite as well as this commonly published street scene. He did it all with the pressure of an empty wallet and conditions that tested his patience, his body, and his considerable abilities. So next time you see this photograph published (and I promise you, you will), think about what you're really looking at. We are seeing Tombstone on the rise and a moment in the very difficult journey of world-class photographer Carleton Watkins. If not for his perseverance over innumerable difficulties and the mastery of his craft, we would never have seen it.

Written by Mike Mihaljevich

Who is this WWHA member? June 1969, age 22 at the gravesite of Billy the Kid.