Saddlebag Newsletter
June 2025

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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. We now have over 8000 subscribers.**

ROUNDUP 2025 RENO, NEVADA, JULY 16-19.

Virginia City

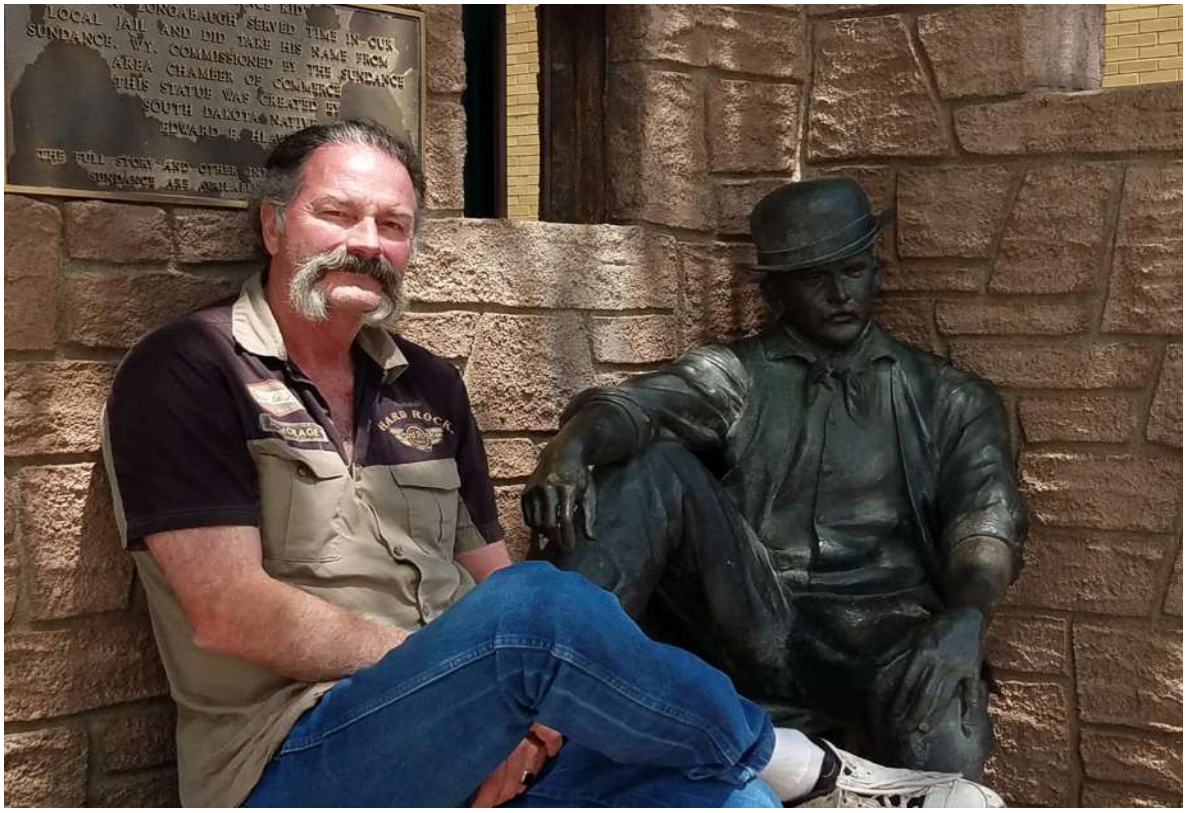
Shipping instructions for WWHA members who want to mail packages to Circus Circus prior to their arrival to the Reno Roundup.

Silver Legacy Business Center
Guest name (First & Last)/ Convention name
407 North Virginia St.
Reno, NV 89501
(Include phone number for the guest can be contacted)

There is a $5.00 per package fee. If package is over 50 lbs., make arrangements with warehouse (775) 325-7313.

on-line booking expires on
June 24th, 2025.

The schedule of events is on the website and the program will be mailed with the June Saddlebag.



This is the friendly face you will see upon registration at the Roundup. Look for Glade Fawson to greet, direct and answer your questions. Thank you Glade, for stepping up for this most important position.

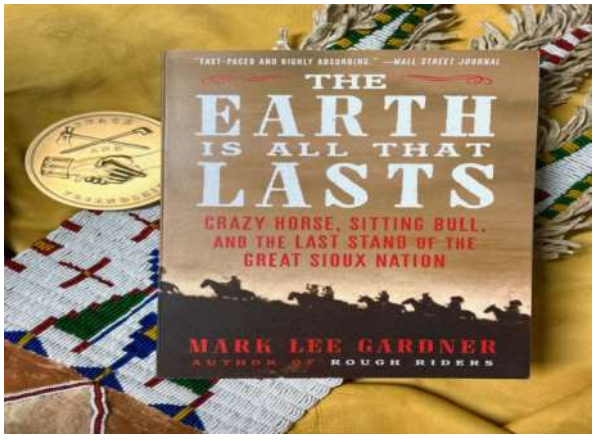
I started the WWHA Facebook Page in 2010. We have built up to 14.6 thousand members. I have been the admin for 15 years and have decided to let someone else manage the page. I'll still be an admin but David Guyton who also runs our Instagram page, will be the one making most of the decisions about who and what stays and who and what goes. There are rules and sometimes it is a judgement call by the admin, respect their decision. Thank you Dave, for stepping up for this important position.
Pam Potter

Submitted by Mark Lee Gardner

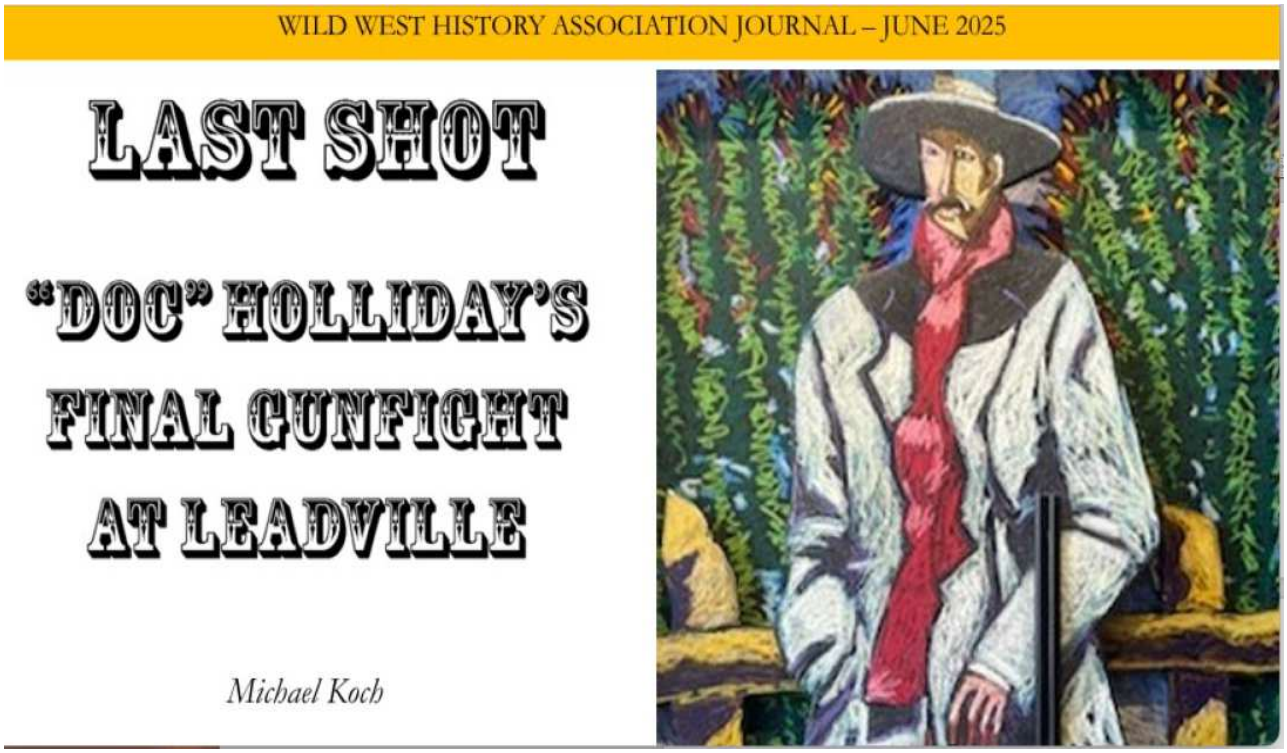
On May 10, Indian Wars historians Paul Hedren, Eli Paul, Chip Haas, and Mark Lee Gardner visited Ashland Cemetery in St. Joseph, Missouri, to clean the gravestone of Frank Grouard (1850-1905). During the winter of 1869-70, Grouard, the son of a Mormon missionary and a Polynesian woman, visited the camp of Lakota leader Sitting Bull to trade. Sitting Bull took an immediate liking to the young man and adopted him as a brother. The Lakotas knew Grouard as "Grabber," and he became a fast friend of both Sitting Bull and the Oglala leader Crazy Horse. Grouard later betrayed that friendship, however, by becoming a scout for the U. S. Army and helping the "Long Knives" to hunt down his former friends. Very few people who visit Ashland

Cemetery today have the slightest clue that it contains the remains of a man who played a singular role in the Lakota and Cheyenne peoples' loss of freedom. Something of a scoundrel,

yes, but Grouard remains a fascinating and seminal historical figure of the Old West nonetheless. For more on Grouard, see Mark Lee Gardner's *The Earth Is All That Lasts: Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, and the Last Stand of the Great Sioux Nation* (New York: Mariner Books, 2022), and *The Life and Adventures of Frank Grouard, Chief of Scouts* by Joe DeBarthe (St. Joseph, MO: Combe Printing Company, 1894).



Coming in the June issue of the WWHA Journal. It should be in your mailbox shortly.



UNDER COVER DURING THE GILDED AGE

By Pam Potter

Tombstone, Arizona, a town with a foreboding name, was a silver camp, a boomtown with sumptuous restaurants, thespians of varying talents, fashionable women and a red-light district. It boasted numerous saloons, gambling establishments, newspaper offices, attorneys, engineers, lawmen, cowboys and Indians, miners, gamblers – a typical frontier town. Tombstone was not just a dusty, dirty, mining burg. In its heyday, newspapers from back East brought word of the latest fashions, inventions and books, everything needed to at least make an attempt at proper society. Schools and churches were established to render education both academic and spiritual. People from all walks of life with eclectic backgrounds of ethnicity, age, gender, occupation, criminal history, or lack thereof, were drawn to the mining town in the Arizona Territory desert, not too far from the Mexican border.

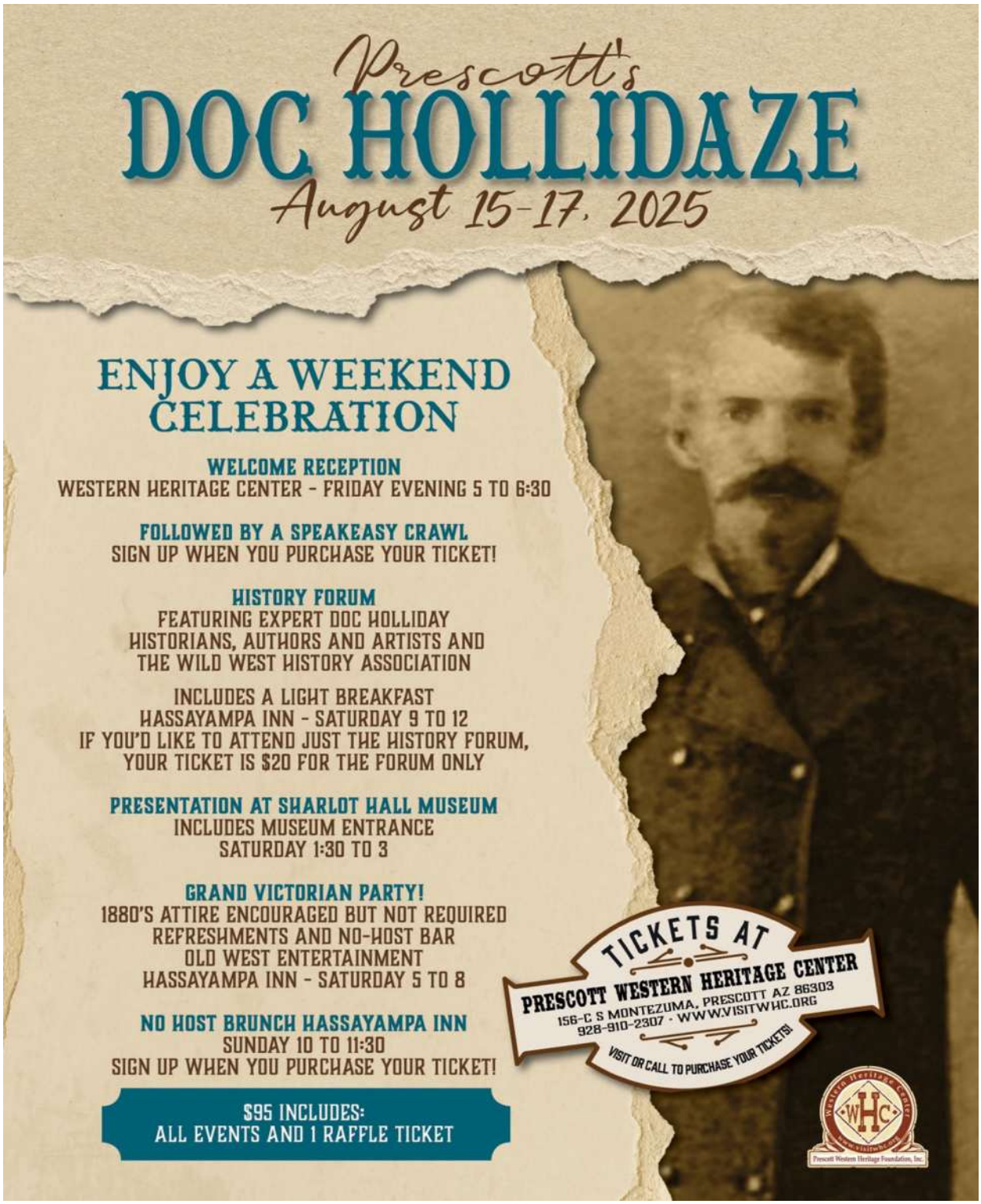
With these argonauts, both men and women, came relationships. Many were single, some because they never married and others because they had been deserted by their mate. A few were happily married, others on the verge of separation. Multifarious adventurers – again, both male and female were destined to commit adultery. There were no restrictions or presumption on which party would first violate his or her vows; women were not immune to passion and trysts.

Mining in the Tombstone hills began in earnest in 1878-1879, after prospector Ed Schieffelin discovered silver. His was not the first discovery but was the one that gave Tombstone its name. Indians were one of the primary dangers on the Sonoran Desert thus Ed was told the only thing he would find out there was his tombstone; he named his strike Tombstone and the name stuck. The early 1880s were a booming time for the town. Much of the population was transient and many divorces were requested by a party having resided there the required six months and the other party was nowhere to be found. Few of the divorces that took place were for marriages that had actually occurred in Tombstone.

Sex may have been discussed in the saloons and gambling halls but few details are recorded outside court records and a few newspaper reports. High jinks of the high profile people made the news, like that of District Attorney Lyttleton Price and his wife's love interest (one of the towns doctors), or the sensational case of Hiram Potter who committed incest with his eleven year old daughter, or the cases of May Woodman, who shot her lover, or Frank Carlton who shot his wife's lover. Many of Tombstone's back room liaisons were sealed in death.

During the 1880s, mines were discovered, claims bought and sold, town lots built upon, complicated legal battles fought over both land and mining claims and then, of course, on October 26, 1881, the ever famous street fight, popularly known as The Gunfight at the OK Corral, sent three men to the last roundup and just about everybody on the Tombstone streets that day, into the history books. Apache threats came and went, fires burned down buildings and the citizens re-built. Stagecoaches were robbed and cattle crossed and re-crossed the Mexican-U.S. border with no regard for nativity. In 1883 there were 5,300 people in Tombstone. Then, in 1884, after water was discovered in the mines and various associated problems led to reduction in their pay, the miners struck. In 1885 there was a slight resurrection of mining and business, but when the pumps failed to keep the water from interfering with mining operations, Tombstone again flagged. By 1890 the town had shrunk to approximately 1800 residents.

Essentially my "voyeurism" takes place during Tombstone's heyday and during a period when little was written about the private lives of the men and women of one of the richest silver boomtowns in the west. Tombstone was probably no more a hotbed of lust than any other frontier town. But the carnal appetite in Tombstone of the 1880s is just an example of what was occurring under cover as well as under the covers, during the Gilded Age.



See you there.

Wild West History Association

Roundups

- ☐ 2008 Tulsa Roundup OK
- ☐ 2009 San Antonio Roundup TX
- ☐ 2010 Ruidoso Roundup NM
- ☐ 2011 Cody Roundup WY
- ☐ 2012 Prescott Roundup AZ
- ☐ 2013 Boise Roundup ID
- ☐ 2014 Denver Roundup CO
- ☐ 2015 Amarillo Roundup TX
- ☐ 2016 Oklahoma City Roundup OK
- ☐ 2017 Fort Worth Roundup TX
- ☐ 2018 Springfield Roundup MO
- ☐ 2019 Cheyenne Roundup WY
- ☐ 2022 Rapid City Roundup SD
- ☐ 2023 San Antonio Roundup TX
- ☐ 2024 Fort Smith Roundup AR
- ☐ 2025 Reno Roundup NV

Which ones have you been to?