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 "New" *Saddlebag* Newsletter. The latest information is headed by the date of posting. Previously posted information will be found by date further down in the newsletter. All 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.

March 23, 2022

WWHA Roundup Registrations for Rapid City/Deadwood are pouring in. Forms are available on this website.

IN SEARCH OF BROWN BOWEN
Lost and Found

Brown Bowen was the brother-in-law of John Wesley Hardin, the brother of Hardin's wife, Jane Bowen Hardin. Bowen was an outlaw in his own right. In 1872, he walked up to Thomas Halderman who was sleeping off a drunk and shot him in the back of the head, allegedly because "he had a right to kill him." Although Bowen later denied killing Halderman and insisted Hardin had done the deed, Bowen was jailed After the killing.

Bowen broke jail and escaped to Florida. He was recaptured in 1877 and returned to Texas. Bowen was tried, convicted and hanged in Gonzales, Texas. It was reported a spectacular crowd of some 3,500 to 4,000 attended the gruesome event held on May 17, 1878. Bowen was one of their own, having lived with his parents and siblings just outside of Smiley, in Gonzales County, Texas.

Members of WWHA have been searching for his grave for close to a year. An old photo provided by Chuck Parsons was the only clue. Findagrave.com had it listed as "lost in time." We drove paved roads and dirt roads, peering through trees and barb wire. Eddie Lanham's searches of Google Earth as well as other mapping resources. proved elusive.

With our motto of "Never Give Up," we contacted the Gonzales County Sheriff who eventually led us to local rancher and historian, Donald Huffman. He knew where the

grave was located on private property. With permission from the property owner and our guide, Mr. Hoffman, we were able to visit the grave. No wonder we couldn't find it from the air. It is all grown over with trees and vines. We also were shown the remains of the house where Jane and Brown lived as children and where she and Wes Hardin lived for awhile after their marriage. It is now nothing but rubble, having been completely destroyed in a tornado, several years ago.

It was such a thrill to finally find something thought to be lost and to stand in the place where the people we research, lived and performed their daily activities. I could picture Jane and her brother Brown, possibly playing in the yard and Jane and Wes Hardin, climbing the stars to their room.

Chuck Parsons, Pam Potter, Eddie Lanham, Donald Hoffman, Keith Schmidt, Sheriff of Gonzales County and Robert Buckley, all contributed to this article.

Postscript from Chuck Parsons: We finally re-discovered Brown Bowen's grave site! Thanks to Eddie Lanham and Pam Potter, who visited it with Don Hoffman of Nixon. It was suggested we ask Hoffman to take us there as well. We did. Met him at Dairy Queen in Nixon and headed out. Traveled a dirt road, went through the two gates and drove up the hill. There it was as you can see - a close up by my wife, Pat. Note the iron fence has been broken . . . note also the oak trees and mesquite and cacti which have taken over. First time I was there, with Norman Barnett, this was pretty much a bare hill. You could see the grave from the hill. Now, not even from the road could you see it.

I don't know why the people who placed the replacement stone on Bowen's incorrectly called him "Brown O. Bowen" since the original stone (which is now in the Gonzales Museum) has "Jo. Bowen" which stood for Joseph. I guess they saw the letter "Jo." and thought the middle initial should go there.

Then we drove around the country side, visited where Coon Hollow was; visited where "Smiley Lake" was (actually the confluence of two streams but not really a lake) visited the"Old Smiley Cemetery" where Sheriff Richard Glover is buried, killed by Gregorio Cortez . . . then the Bundick Cemetery where Norman Barnett is buried who first took me to the Bowen burial site years ago. So: three cemeteries was a good day's work!

Since years ago Don Hoffman had given me copies of his two self-published books I thought it only right to return the favor; gave him copy of *"Pidge" Texas Ranger* and *Texas Ranger Lee Hall: From the Red River to the Rio Grande*.

Idaho Regional Roundup Report

135 Wild West history buffs attended the WWHA Regional Roundup in Idaho. The information and photos are posted on the WWHA Facebook page. Two new members were recruited for WWHA membership. WWHA Journals and Wild West magazines were given away. Several of the attendees plan on being at the Rapid City/Deadwood Roundup.

Reported by: *Bob Sobba*

Great Western Trail Markers

More Great Western Trail markers have been repainted by WWHA members. Shown here is the one south of London, Texas, along Hwy 385.

Death of Oklahoma Historian Mollie Stehno

Historian Mollie Lee (Childress) Stehno age 88, Died March 11, 2022 in Norman, OK.

A researcher of historical events and people, Mollie's research led her to become the editor of a published journal about Oklahoma's history of outlaws and lawmen. She also wrote on the 101 Ranch in Ponca City Oklahoma, as well as researching for other authors and publishing several books on Oklahoma and Western history.

Born March 24, 1934 in Chandler OK. Mollie was preceded in death by her parents AB (Ike) & Zelma Childress, her sister Midge Marker, and brother John Childress. She is survived by three sons, Albert Stehno Billings OK, Scott & Kathren Stehno Moore, OK, Kent A. & Beth A. Stehno Billings, OK. She also leaves her three grandchildren Julie Elizabeth Meder, Kimberly Â Stehno, and Kolton Stehno. Mollie also leaves her five precious great grandchildren and her very special niece, Chele Marker Cash, and several great nephews.

Mollie's greatest passion was raising her three sons to become hard-working individuals with a desire to excel in all that they pursued from their youth and into adulthood. She was a great model for continuous learning to her children and grandchildren. Much of her learning led to developing hobbies that she enjoyed her entire adult life. In her free time, she always had at least one project if not more. They included, painting pictures, building stain glass window hangers, painting ceramics, pouring steppingstones, knitting, or crocheting many beautiful pieces. Her last project was building kaleidoscopes from stained glass for her great grandchildren.

Mollie graduated from Chandler High School and finished her teaching degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 1965. She taught in many schools in Oklahoma during her 28 year career. It was not uncommon to hear people who had Mollie as a teacher in their elementary years to say how much they enjoyed having her as a teacher. She challenged her students to strive for excellence. She will be remembered by many former 4-H and

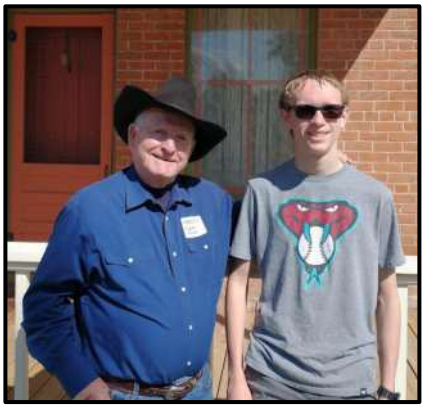
FFA Students around Oklahoma were she supervised and assisted with speeches, scrap books and all species of livestock at shows around the country.

Mollie wanted her students to have learning opportunities that went beyond the curriculum. She was always seeking teaching material that would expand her students knowledge. Mollie was also an avid reader of books of all genres. Through her many interests she still made time to attend events to support her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her family will miss her immensely.

Arizona Happenings in March

WWHA Members at Tucson Book Festival

WWHA member and noted author, John Boessenecker, attended the Tucson Festival of Books, March 12th and 13th on the campus of the University of Arizona. John took part in three panel sessions – "The Publishing Journey," "Unruly Women in Western History," and "The Bandit and the Botanist." He signed his books and talked to many people after the panels. Other WWHA member/authors taking part in the festival were Mark Warren, Gil Storms and Doug Hocking.



Marshall Trimble, WWHA 2nd Vice President and Arizona's State Historian, performed March 5th at the 32nd annual Folk & Heritage Festival in Glendale, AZ. Marshall entertained the audience with songs and stories. Marshall is pictured with Advisory Board Member, Louis Harrell.

Submitted by *Donna Harrell*

2022 Texas Gun Collectors Association

Spring Show, Auction and Members Meeting
April 22, 23 & 24, 2022 at Embassy Suites Hotel
1001 E. McCarty Ln., San Marcos, TX 78666

Remnant Trust Exhibition Coming to Easter New Mexico University

PORTALES, NM – March 8, 2022 – Eastern New Mexico University will soon have access to some of the most important historical documents in the world when the Remnant Trust exhibition opens at the Golden Student Success Center (GSSC) in August 2022.

Remnant Trust is a public educational foundation which shares a collection of manuscripts and works dealing with individual liberty and human dignity, some of which are more than 4,000 years old. The GSSC will house 38 items on display, with individual appointments or class tours available for those who wish to have a personal experience with history.

Among the items that will be available are a Vulgate Bible dated between 1240 and 1260, a 1763 edition of Plato's Republic and a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation. The public will be able to physically handle and inspect the documents under librarian supervision.

By sharing these documents and ideas in their original form, Remnant Trust hopes to increase the public's understanding of individual liberty and how these ideas helped form this nation.

"The Remnant Trust puts into the hands of the everyday American citizen some of the most important intellectual works from history," said Laura Wight, director of the Golden Library and Roosevelt County Historical Museum. "Engaging with, touching and seeing these documents is an opportunity most of us would never experience in a lifetime. We are extremely lucky to have this opportunity here at ENMU."

The display will be free and open to the public. For more information on the Remnant Trust, visit http://www.enmu.edu/RemnantTrust.

February 27, 2022

Latest Fireside Stories Episode

The Peacemaker Colt 45. Outlaws, lawmen, cowboys and the army made this gun famous. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCvAm9VgNIc&t=129s

Death of Historian Chip Carlson

Historian and author Chip Carlson died on January 4, 2022 at the age of 84. Carlson was a speaker for the 2007 WOLA Shootout in Cheyenne and was scheduled to participate in the 2018 WWHA Roundup, but had to cancel at the last minute.

Chip Carlson, born in 1937, died at Davis Hospice Center in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Chip was a Cheyenne historian and author who devoted twenty years to investigating and documenting the Tom Horn episode of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The results of that work were three published books. The most recent, *Tom Horn: Blood on the Moon - Dark History of the*

Murderous Cattle Detective, won the annual award for history/biography of the Wyoming State Historical Society. For seven years, he was a member of the Speakers Bureau of the Wyoming Council for the Humanities. He was also a member of the Wyoming Historical Society, Western Writers of America and a former member of Wild West History Association.

In 1993 he organized the retrial of Tom Horn in the Laramie County Courthouse, which attracted international attention to Wyoming and resulted in Horn's acquittal. *The New York Times* reported on the trial and summarized it with the headline "Once Guilty, Now Innocent, But Still Dead." He worked as a consultant on a permanent exhibit on Tom Horn at the location where the gallows stood in the old Laramie County Courthouse.

Carlson was a graduate of Colgate University, where he was editor of his college newspaper, with a major in philosophy and a minor in Spanish. While in college he studied in South America as a member of the Argentine Study Group. After graduation he worked in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Minnesota and Canada. He moved to Wyoming in 1977. Chip was employed by Pitney Bowes, Cheyenne Frontier Days and Sierra Trading Post. For many years he was a volunteer on the Concessions Committee for Cheyenne Frontier Days. Chip loved Wyoming, hunting, the Boston Red Sox and large dogs. He is survived by his wife, Susan; children, John, Lisa, Jenna and Tina; stepsons, Alan and Ken; sister, Anne; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Memorials in his memory may be sent to Black Dog Animal Rescue, 2407 E. 9th, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 82001 A private family service will be held in the summer of 2022. Cremation is under the care of Schrader, Aragon and Jacoby Funeral Home.

February 23, 2022

Roundup Registration form, as well as Vendor/Exhibitor and Roundup Program Advertising forms are now posted on this website.

New URL address for WWHA YouTube Channel

The WWHA YouTube channel has a new URL (address). Previously we had an address assigned by YouTube. The YouTube "Custom" revision is much shorter and easy to remember: https://www.youtube.com/c/WildWestHistoryAssociation.

On March 1st, WWHA President Jim Dunham will dive into the world of Hollywood and the incident that took place on the set of the movie "Rust."

On March 15th "Wyoming." You will love the music. Two lovely Wyoming ladies gave WWHA permission to use their song, which is now the #1 song in that state.

On April 1st, Mike Bell will tell the life and times of Kid Curry.

Roundup Collectors Panel

The WWHA Rapid City/Deadwood Roundup has added Peg Aplan to the Collector's Panel. Pet lives some 17 miles from Rapid City and will provide information on her collection of Wild West memorabilia.

February 11, 2022

Nominations for WWHA Board of Directors

Marshall Trimble, WWHA 2nd Vice-President, and chair of the "Nominations" committee, announces that nominations for board seats may be made between March 1st and June 30th, 2022. The board is comprised of 18 board seats (expanded from 15 in 2020) with each board member being elected for a term of three years. With a rotation of three-year terms, each year six board seats are open for election or reelection.

Current board members whose terms expire in July 2022 are: Donna Harrell, Dr. James Bailey, Ruth McWhirter, Elizabeth Weathers, Charlotte Steele, and Jean Smith (who is filling the unexpired term of Ron Woggon who retired from the board in January 2022). Each of these board members are seeking reelection and will be nominated at the annual WWHA membership meeting on Saturday, July 23, 2022 during the Rapid City/Deadwood Roundup.

Additionally, the board currently has three vacancies, including that of Carroll Moore, retiring and leaving an unexpired term through 2024; also, the board seat of the late Bill Hunter with a board term expiring in 2023, and an unfilled board seat with a term expiring in 2024. The WWHA bylaws do not require that all 18 seats be filled at all times.

Other board seats and their term expiration are: 2023 - Paul Marquez, William I. "Bill" Koch, Jim Dunham, Kurt House, Michael Wallis, and one unfilled seat. 2024 - Marshall Trimble, Pam Potter, Roy B. Young, Alan Blanchette, the seat of the retiring Carroll Moore, and one unfilled board seat.

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.

Chairman Trimble has provided 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 WWHA bylaws provide for the elected members of the board to select their own officers.

Nominations are to be submitted to Marshall Trimble, 8119 E. Redwing Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85250 or to marshall.trimble@sccmail.maricopa.edu. The deadline date is firm: June 30, 2022.

Headstone of Sheriff Albertus Sweet, KIA, now repaired, will be unveiled on March 7, 2022 in Lampasas, Texas, **contributed by *Chuck Parsons***

Friends of the Wild West have made it their mission not only to preserve the written history of the Wild West but also the more tangible objects which mark their lives: their headstones.

In Lampasas, Texas for many years there has been the broken headstone of Sheriff Albertus Sweet. He was elected sheriff December 2, 1873, re-elected February15, 1876 and served until November 5, 1878.

Sweet was born October 2, 1843. During the Civil War, he served the Confederacy as Sergeant in Company D of the Texas Infantry. Subsequently serving successfully as sheriff during the days of the Horrell-Higgins Feud, Sweet became city marshal of Belton, Texas. There, he was killed while attempting to help the country sheriff make an arrest on December 9, 1881. His remains were taken back to Lampasas where he was buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery.

Through the years his impressive headstone was damaged; rather than let it continue to remain in this condition, a group of historians decided to repair it. On March 7, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. the repaired headstone will be unveiled during a short program. WWHA members and the general public is invited to attend.

The program will take place at the Oak Hills Cemetery, Lampasas, Texas, 100-1099 W. Avenue E, a few blocks off US Highway 183 and close to US Highway 281. The ceremony will begin at 2:00 with an opening prayer by Rick Willis. a local minister. Then, Bill O'Neal, former State Historian of Texas, and author of many books, will provide a biographical sketch of Albertus Sweet. The actual unveiling of the repaired headstone will follow by WWHA members Chuck Parsons, Wild West historian and author, and local historian Jeff Jackson.

Roy Young, editor of the *Journal* of the Wild West History Association, will then provide a few special remarks about why the marking of graves and the repairs of headstones is a priority for WWHA. The Wild West History Association is involved in identifying the graves of westerners and erecting or repairing their headstones which have been broken by the elements or other causes. Oak Hill Cemetery began in 1872 when Hartwell Fountain sold ten acres of land to the city to established this cemetery. It was first known as City Cemetery and renamed Oak Hill in 1908. The Ladies Cemetery Association, a group of concerned women, maintained the cemetery from 1891 to 1948 when the city assumed responsibility

Rick Willis will close the ceremony with a prayer. Following these activities, Jeff Jackson will give a walking tour of Oak Hill Cemetery to view the burial sites of noted Lampasas citizens, local pioneers, veterans of the Texas Revolution, Civil War and other conflicts.

Great Western Trail Marker Project

Several WWHA members are engaged in preserving western heritage along the route of the "Great Western Cattle Trail" which along with several "feeder trails" ran from Matamoros, Mexico, north to Canada. While it was in use, some six million to seven million cattle, or more, and a million horses, or more, made their way up various parts of the route.

In 1874 Captain John T. Lytle and several Cowboys left South Texas with 3,500 head of longhorn cattle. Five years later the route Lytle cut out of the prairie to Ft. Robinson, Nebraska, had become the most significant Cattle Trail in history - The Great Western Trail.

The Great Western trail was less known than the Chisholm Trail, the Great Western Trail was longer in length and carried cattle for two years longer than the Chisholm.

Established in 1878, Doan's Crossing was know on the trail as "the jumping off place." The last place to get mail and supplies before entering Indian Territory. Today the 1881 adobe building , still standing at Doan's is the oldest structure in Wilbarger County, Texas.

In the 1930"s two markers were set at Doan's to commemorate the historical significance of the area.

In 2003, Rotary International, in cooperation with the Great Western Trail Association provided funds for the placement of concrete markers along the entire Great Western Trail, every six miles the trail from the Rio Grande to Ogallala, Nebraska. Oklahoma Set the first post south of the city of Altus near the Red River, and challenged Texas to follow suit. Oklahoma donated the first post in Texas which was set in 2004 during the 121st Doan's May Day Picnic at the Doan's adobe.

Today, most of these markers are falling into a state of disrepair and need sanding and repainting. Some markers have been lost and some were never set.

The WWHA involvement in this project is sanding and repainting a number of these markers. In the picture at left, WWHA member Pam Potter, our past-president, is shown working on one of the markers on a recent snowy day. This maker is seven and one half miles west of Harper, Texas, on US 290. The marker is on private property, but very visible from the highway. GPS co-ords: N30 17.880, W99 22.237. Marker is about 60' north of the edge of pavement.

Fireside Stories

Roy Young's WWHA Fireside Stories video "Who Killed Morgan Earp" has a new trailer ready for viewing. Eddie Lanham, WWHA member who films the videos will now be making a trailer for each video that is made. The trailers will be shown about 3-4 days before the release of a "Fireside Stories" or "Bugs on the Windshield" episode. WWHA is currently releasing two episodes per month, a Fireside story on the 1st, and a Bugs... on the 15th. For the Morgan Earp trailer see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAva1L2K4I4. You will then notice in the right hand column a list of the videos from which to choose for your viewing pleasure.

200th Anniversary of the James-Samuel Cabin

April 23, 2022 , 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

The 200th Anniversary Celebration, the Original Cabin and Clay County! The event will include five guest speakers, including: Scott Cole: "History of the James-Samuel Cabin," Bryan Shibley: "History of Clay County," Joe Hall: "History of the Samuel Family," Bryan Ivlow: "Guns of the Period," and WWHA member and Rapid City/Deadwood Roundup speaker, Mark Gardner: "Jesse James."

Several James, Samuel and Cole family members will be present as will re-enactors throughout the day!

Call 816-736-8500 or visit www.jessejamesmuseum.org for additional information.

Mike Gray Tombstone Dedication in Colma, California

Michael Gray, Tombstone Justice of the Peace and clerk to the Tombstone Common Council, is getting a new gravemarker. On March 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., Mike Gray relatives will dedicate the new grave marker for Mike Gray, his wife and one daughter. Previously, they were all in one unmarked grave. The new marker appears below. The dedication will be at the Greenlawn Cemetery in Colma, California. All WWHA members are invited to attend. Please contact project coordinator Mike Eberhardt, a stalwart member of WWHA, at mikeceber@sbcglobal.net He will compile a list of WWHA members planning to attend and provide more details and directions.

Coincidentally, Wyatt Earp's grave is only a short distance away in Hills of Eternity Memorial Park. Mike Gray knew Wyatt Earp fairly well. For example, it is believed that Mike Gray swore Wyatt in as a Cochise County deputy sheriff in July 1880. The group will go to Wyatt's grave around 11:00 a.m. and then adjourn to a nearby Colma restaurant for a free lunch for all attendees.

In advance of the event, Mike EberhardtI will send out by email his most recent article on Mike Gray in the *Cochise County Historical Journal* so attendees might learn a bit more about Mike Gray before the event. Contact Mike for further information at: Michael C. Eberhardt, 6006 Club Oaks Drive, Dallas, Texas 75248 - 972-567-0029.

United States Marshals Museum to Host Symposium

Regional and national presenters will examine the deadliest day in the history of the United States Marshals

FORT SMITH, Ark. (January 20, 2021) – The United States Marshals Museum is excited to announce its upcoming symposium, Goingsnake @ 150. On April 15, 1872, a Marshals posse interrupted a Cherokee Nation court session and spurred a gun battle that ended as the deadliest event in the history of the Marshals, the worst instance of Cherokee-on-Cherokee violence, and the largest civilian gunfight in the history of the American West. This event came to be known as the Goingsnake tragedy.

"Questions of sovereignty and responsibility still linger over the tragedy at Goingsnake and the decisions made at the time. We still see the effects of these events in the region today," said Leslie Higgins, the Museum's director of education. David Kennedy, the curator of exhibits and collections, sees the symposium as a way for modern society to understand the issues that shaped our nation. "We will host subject matter experts who can speak authentically about the history of the Marshals, the Cherokee, the legal system at the time, and the cultures which were involved in this tragic event in Indian Territory," Kennedy said.

The Symposium will take place from 9:00 am-4:30 pm on April 8 and 9 at the United States Marshals Museum in Fort Smith. Sessions will include the legal and political history leading to the event, the roles played by the Marshals, the Cherokee Nation, and the military, and the outcomes of the event. Tickets can be purchased for $30 (1 day) or $50 (2 days). Lunch presentations are $15 each and are available only in advance of the event. Tickets are available at Stubs.net.