

Saddlebag Newsletter

May 2024

Pam Potter

Spiritwind2@hotmail.com

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.**



WWHA Members in the News

Our own Bob Pulcifer, honored with award.

2024 Eleanor Gehres Award Honors Robert S. Pulcifer

by [Heidi](#) on April 9, 2024

It is with great pleasure that Special Collections and Archives welcomes our longtime supporter of the department Robert (Bob) S. Pulcifer as 2024's recipient of the Eleanor Gehres Award.

In 1999, the Denver Public Library Commission established the Eleanor Gehres Award in recognition of her longtime service and contributions to the Western History and Genealogy Department of the Denver Public Library. Gehres's passion for enlarging library audiences and developing a remarkable and accessible research collection inspired the creation of the Eleanor Gehres Award, first bestowed on her shortly before her death in 2000.

The award honors an individual or an organization that has made a significant contribution to library materials (books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, works of art, or other items), scholarship, life-long service, or bequest, thereby enhancing the Western History Collection and its value to the community.

Robert S. Pulcifer's unwavering support of the Denver Public Library and Western History and Genealogy Department is demonstrated through his decades of service and willingness to share his many talents. At a time when the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation was known as

the Denver Public Library Foundation, Pulcifer served as treasurer and later became president of the organization. He led the Foundation's used book sales, which continue to this day and help supplement the Library's budget.

Even now, Pulcifer's support continues through his participation as an active DPL's Special Collections and Archives Department Community Acquisitions Committee member. In his over 20 years of tenure with the committee, he's helped acquire papers of Western authors such as Karen Holliday Tanner and John Douglas Tanner, as well as records from the First National Bank of Denver dating back to the late 1800s. He's also generously donated his work and theses to the Library's collections.

Outside of the Library, Pulcifer is a respected Army veteran, author, and accomplished community leader. During his ten years in the Army, Robert was on active duty and in the reserves serving as a Captain and company commander of recruits at Fort Dix after graduating from Infantry Officer Training School at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia. He was Vice President of the First National Bank of Denver, a member of the Denver Posse of Westerners, and Director of the Western Outlaw and Lawman Association. Additionally, he was appointed by Governor Vanderhook and Governor Lamm to be a part of the Colorado Centennial-Bicentennial Commission. Even after retirement, Robert continues to contribute to the community as a current member of the Wild West History Association advisory board. Education and history preservation are vital to Pulcifer. He once told the Denver Post, "The most fundamental function of a city is to provide a good, free public library."

Robert S. Pulcifer's activism, acquisitions, and continued support have strengthened the organization and department for decades and will, no doubt, continue to do so for many years. We would like to offer our sincerest thanks to Bob for his dedication and contributions. His nomination and award are truly well-earned!



Wittliff Acquires Large Texana Research Collection

Longtime Texas writer Mike Cox, author of more than 40 nonfiction books, has donated his extensive Texana research files to the Texas State University's Wittliff Collections.

Amassed over sixty years, the material consists of 1,000-plus file folders that cover numerous aspects of Texas people, places, folklore and history. The files also include notes, correspondence and research material related to Cox's many published works.

"In 1961 my 7th grade home room teacher assigned our class compile a scrapbook related to some aspect of Texas history," Cox said. "I decided to collect newspaper clippings, magazine articles and any other documents I could find that had to do with old Texas forts. After that, I began adding more and more material about Texas in general and kept that up."

Cox, a member of the Texas Institute of Letters since 1993, first began donating his writing-related material to the Wittliff Collection in the 1990s. In addition to his correspondence and notes, his previous donations include a large collection of books and ephemera related to writer-folklorist J. Frank Dobie and the short story writer O. Henry.

“Mike is a Texana expert and a collector extraordinaire,” says Steve Davis, The Wittliff’s Literary Curator. “He began writing Texas history-related articles while still a teenager and he’s still going strong. His voluminous subject files are indeed Texas-sized and we are pleased to make them available to new generations of researchers.”

Cox’s earlier donations are already available to scholars and the general public. Archival inventories of the Cox Papers are on The Wittliff website

at: <https://www.thewittliffcollections.txst.edu/research/a-z/cox.html>

Mike Cox has written hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles, book reviews and essays in addition to his many books. He began his career as a newspaper reporter and worked in journalism for twenty years. He later served as the spokesperson for the Texas Department of Public Safety and also worked in media relations for the Texas Department of Transportation and Texas Parks and Wildlife. He retired from the state service in 2015 and lives in the Hill Country village of Wimberley with his wife, Beverly.



ROUNDUP 2024



Fort Smith Arkansas July 17-20, Wyndham Hotel

Register on our website. Call Hotel at [479-783-1000](tel:479-783-1000) for room reservations and be sure and tell them you are with the Wild West History Association to be included in our group rates.

Field trip to the U. S. Marshals Museum, panel on Black Hats, White Hats and Gray Hats. Presentations on Belle Starr, The Battle of Ingalls, Bass Reeves, Judge Parker and more. Look for the program on our website.

We need silent auction items. You can bring them to the Roundup, or send them to Ruth McWhirter - 1548 Pecan Ridge Drive - Colliersville, TN 38017 email: lilyruthmcw@gmail.com

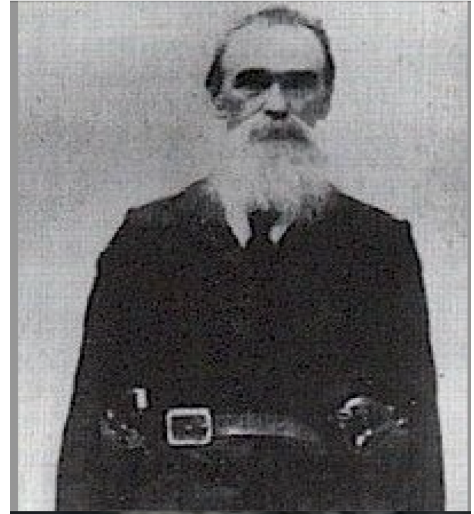
Check back on the website for updates.

“**Hanging Judge**” Isaac Parker sentenced a total 160 criminals to die on the gallows, dubbed the “Gates of Hell.” This was the domain of Parker’s dour executioner, George Maledon. After Parker declared, “I sentence you to be hanged by the neck until dead,” the condemned would be fitted for a “necktie” by Maledon, known far and wide as the “Prince of Hangman.” Many of

them were pardoned, had their sentence commuted, or, else “beat the hangman,” by dying in prison before the ultimate sentence could be carried out.

When he finally retired as a hangman in 1894, Maledon toured country towns and cities with one of his treasured ropes and lectured about the lives and consequent deaths of the culprits he had executed. “I never hanged a man who came back to have the job done over,” Maledon often quipped. “The ghosts of men hanged at Fort Smith never hang around the gibbet.”

-Michael Wallis





Every Tuesday at 8:40 AM I do a fifteen-minute radio show on WBHF, 1450 AM and 100.3 FM here in Cartersville, GA with host Alan Sanders. Anyone who wants to hear it can download the WBHF radio app for android and apple or use sites libsyn.com/504823 or all shows are at wbhf radio podcast spotify.com

What I talk about is what happened interesting during this week in Western history. Just for fun, here is an example. I used the days we will be at the WWHA “Roundup.”

July 17th

1763... John Jacob Astor is born in Heidelberg, Germany. He came to NYC in 1783 and in 1808 established the American Fur Company and became America’s first millionaire.

1870....”Wild Bill” Hickok takes on five 7th cav troopers in a Hays City saloon fight and kills Pvt. John Kile.

1881....Mountain Man legend Jim Bridger dies at age 77 in Missouri.

July 18th

1857.... “Unsinkable Molly Brown” who survives the Titanic sinking is born Margaret Tobin in Hannabel, MO.

1901.... Tom Horn accidentally kills fourteen old Willie instead of intended target Kels Nickell.

July 19th

1814....Gun inventor Sam Colt is born.

1878....Sam Bass gang member Seaborn Barnes is slain by Ranger Dick Ware at Round Rock. Texas.

Happy Trails,

Jim Dunham
WWHA president



Sheiff Nabor Pacheco Arizona Lawman with Many Firsts



Arizona Territorial Sheriff, Nabor Pacheco (1904-1908), was truly a man way ahead of his time. In his ten plus years as a Tucson lawman, he was responsible for a number of performance firsts in the then early Wild West law enforcement era. In addition to being the first Arizona born Hispanic to be elected as Sheriff, he was also the first shield carrier to use a fierce canine named Jack, that helped in taking down law breakers for most of those years, and was one of the first lawmen to use an automobile in the performance of his duties. But one of his most whimsical firsts is that of

being a matchmaker service.

The sheriff's office in Tucson has been turned into a veritable matrimonial bureau for a romantic set of society girls in Cohoes NY. A few weeks ago, Nabor Pacheco, Sheriff of Tucson, received a sweet-scented missive, requesting him to hand the note to some young, bold and dashing cowboy.

The writer, Miss Flourine Ford said that she and some of her friends had been reading about the Southwest and were dying to know a real cowboy. The Sheriff handed the letter to Will Coberly, who has charge of his father's vast ranches in the Arivaca County, and a lively romance was immediately set to foot. Hardly had young Coberly an opportunity to write his first letter, when a half dozen similar missives reached the Sheriff's office. They were all from the Cohoes' girls, who wanted to know real cowboys. (*Bisbee Daily Review* May 9, 1906)

Although it took nearly three months, a successful match resulting in a marriage was achieved. *The Bisbee Daily Review* of August 10, 1906, reported, Arizona Cowboy Weds A Pretty Eastern Girl, How Cupid Brought Together Pinto Creek Cowpuncher and New York Girl.

Foxy, scheming, irresistible Cupid has scored another victory and 'two loving hearts now beat as one' although three months ago they beat as two-one in Pinto Creek valley in Gila county, and one in Cahoes, New York, where theatrical attractions are frequently taken for baptism before being tried upon the New York public.

Cupid has taken some queer turns and used diverse measures in mating couples, but his procedure in this instance was absolutely unique. His strongest weapons in this case were the United States mail and the Territorial press. Sheriff Pacheco of Tucson also assisted.

It was three months ago that two young ladies of Cahoes, N.Y. wrote to Sheriff Pacheco and confessed that they longed to meet a real, live Arizona cowboy with his chaparejos, his spurs, his quirt and his ruddy face.

The sheriff, willing to do all in his power, showed the letter to a reporter for the Citizen. The heart-yearnings of the young women were given to the public. Other Territorial papers took up the letter and published it. Some made light comments; others were more serious. Bachelors the Territory over were suggested to the Cahoes young ladies and they received many letter.

Riders among the cattle in Pinto Creek Valley, John Sanders one day met another cow-puncher, who showed him a clipping wherein was expressed the heart-desire of the young women.

Sanders became interested. He "dropped a line" to New York, and received two in return. More letters were exchanged. Then came photographs. The real Arizona cow-puncher looked good to the Cahoes girl and the veteran of the range was dead in love with the photograph of the pretty girl. A proposal by letter was made. An acceptance came back.

It is a long jump from Pinto Creek to Cahoes. Consequently, each decided to split part of the distance. They met at Marion, Ohio where the bride has relatives. There they were married. They will spend some time in Ohio and will come back to Pinto Creek to live.

So, in a job that Sheriff Nabor Pacheco often was duty bound to separate loved ones by sending one of them to prison or worse, the gallows, in this situation, he was able to bring together two young lovers.

Steven "Pacheco" McCann
Great grandson of Nabor Pacheco



WWHA upcoming YouTube Videos . Watch, like and subscribe, it is an easy way to support WWHA as we earn money for views.

Cavalry, Infantry, Cochise and the Start of the War with the Chiricahua Apache. The book, Black Legend, covers the early history of Arizona under U.S. rule focusing on the black legend that has befuddled historians and blamed Lieutenant George Bascom, 7th Infantry, for starting a war. That story goes back to just one person, Sgt. Reuben Bernard, 1st Dragoons, who made up a story with himself as the hero, the wise sergeant and the stubborn lieutenant. Bernard wasn't there. Eight people who were present wrote about it and they told a very different story of mistrust and misunderstanding in an attempt to rescue a captive boy. Everyone "knew" that Cochise had the boy, especially his stepfather, who was sent along as interpreter. The trail led to the Apache's doorstep. Bascom set out with 66 infantrymen of his command, not 12 dragoons. Both sides took hostages, but negotiations broke down. The boy would return 12 years later as Mickey Free, Apache Scout. Thanks: Doug Hocking.

May 2, 2:30PM

Lon Moore, Comanche Indian Fighter, Texas Ranger and Rancher. Related to Daniel Boone and Jim Bowie. Exciting story of a young man who was wounded while fighting Comanches and never fully recovered. Narrated by Paul Johnson and Eddie Lanham. Video driving directions including a walk through the cemetery, with GPS coordinates to his final resting place. 5-9, 6:AM

PETER BRAND, Distinguished Author Filmed Live at TOMBSTONE TERRITORY RENDEZVOUS, " Luke Short and Charlie Storms." Tombstone's Gambler's War, including Doc Holliday, Luke Short, Johnny Tyler, Charlie Storms, Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, many more and the competitive division of California "Slopers" and Kansan/Dakotan "Easterners."

5-16 , 6:00AM

Unlike Billy the Kid, Susan McSween survived the Lincoln County War, wife of Alexander McSween. Follow us to her gravesite in White Oaks, New Mexico. "The events of July 19, 1878,

marked the beginning of what became known as the Lincoln County War and catapulted Susan McSween and a young cowboy named Henry McCarty, alias Billy the Kid, into the history books. The so-called war, a fight for control of the mercantile economy of southeastern New Mexico, is one of the most documented conflicts in the history of the American West, but it is an event that up to now has been interpreted through the eyes of men. As a woman in a man's story, Susan McSween has been all but ignored. Clearly, the Lincoln County War was not her finest hour, just her best known. For decades afterward, she ran a successful cattle ranch. She watched New Mexico modernize and become a state. And she lived to tell the tales of the anarchistic territorial period, many times." Kathleen Chamberlain. 5-23, 6:00AM

The Wild West Showdown: Shootout at Langtry, Texas. Judge Roy Bean, Law West of the Pecos River. Gary Ohls tells to story at the WWHHA Roundup 2023, San Antonio, TEXAS. 5-30, 6:00 AM

Brown Bowen Hanged By Mistake? Was the killer really John Wesley Hardin? Cemetery Chainsaw Massacre and Cleanup. Gonzales, Texas. May 1878. It was estimated 4,000 people arrived to witness the human suffering at the hanging of Joshua "Brown" Bowen. Bowen claimed Hardin and Gip Clements went into a store and started drinking. "Hardin told me he was going to show me how to kill a man. I begged him not to, as he (Haldeman) was harmless and my friend. Hardin then went to Haldeman's father and told him that I killed his son." Bowen prayed with Rev. Seale, the noose around his neck. while Mr. Bass was preparing the spring door, Bowen muttered, "O Lord receive my spirit" The door sprung open and Bowen fell a full 7 ft. In about 6 min. Members of the Wild West History Association traveled to the grave of Brown Bowen in Gonzales Co. Texas, near Smiley. Armed with the needed tools to complete the project, we finished in about 2 hours. The grave is located on a working cattle ranch which is private property. There is historical signage in the road right-or-way that tells the story of the Bowen homeplace and store, Brown Bowen, John Wesley Hardin and his wife Jane Bowen Hardin. 6-6, 6:00AM



The Alamo Podcast Explores The Maverick Family Legacy

Now available on your favorite podcast app, Episode 28 of ["Stories Bigger Than Texas"](#) explores the rich impact of the Maverick family on the Alamo's story, beginning in 1835 when Samuel Augustus Maverick moved to Texas in the early days of the Revolution.

Maverick descendant Kenneth Maverick joins the Alamo's Senior Researcher and Historian Kolby Lanham. Together, they explore Maverick's journey from surviving the Siege of the Alamo to signing the Texas Declaration of Independence and later settling his family on the edge of the battle site where he lost so many friends.

Lanham, a cannon expert, reveals how Maverick found cannons from the Battle of the Alamo buried in his front yard. Many of those cannons are now on display at the Alamo. Listeners will

also learn about the Maverick family's generations-long commitment to preservation, and the two words family members are credited with coining.

You can stream the Alamo's podcast [through our website](#), listen and subscribe [on YouTube](#), or subscribe and download on your preferred podcasting app, including Apple Podcasts and Spotify.



LINCOLN FORT STANTON

HISTORIC SITES



Greetings from Lincoln Historic Site!

LINCOLN HISTORIC SITE
PRESENTS 

Lincoln Lecture Series 2024

PROGRAM DATES & SPEAKER TOPICS

MAY 4, 2024	Starlyn Bigrope - Mescalero Apache History: Our Story, Our Experience
JUNE 1, 2024	Scott Hays-Strom - Historic Mining in Lincoln County
JULY 6, 2024	Knutt Peterson - Fort Stanton and Snowy River Cave
AUGUST 2, 2024	Herb Marsh - The Capture and Death of Billy the Kid
AUGUST 2, 2024	Matt Barbour - An Archaeological Perspective on Hunting in New Mexico
AUGUST 3, 2024	Mary Lavin - Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Program and the True Story of Smokey Bear
AUGUST 3, 2024	Brandon Dickson- The Dark History of the Lincoln Courthouse
SEPTEMBER 7, 2024	Rebecca Ward - Los Luceros: New Mexico's Hidden Gem
OCTOBER 5, 2024	Oliver Horn - The Forgotten History of Fort Stanton's Buffalo Soldiers

LECTURES START AT 1:00 PM AT THE HISTORIC SAN JUAN CHURCH. OLD LINCOLN DAYS LECTURES IN AUGUST VARY IN TIME, PLEASE CHECK THE DAY OF PROGRAM FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS!

For questions or more information please email
alanea.white@dca.nm.gov



Upcoming Events



Fort Stanton Living History | Sat., April 13, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
| Join us for our living history day including site tours, children's craft projects, and demonstrations.

Lincoln Lecture Series | Sat., May 4, 1 p.m. | Lecturer Starlyn Bigrope will share the history and experiences of the Ndé (Mescalero Apache) people.

Fort Stanton Living History | Sat., May 11, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Join us for our monthly living history day, featuring site tours, craft projects, and more.

Lincoln Lecture Series | Sat., June 1, 1 p.m. | Lecturer Scott Hays-Strom discusses historic mining in Lincoln County.

All programs listed are included with general admission. Adults \$7, children 16 years and younger free.



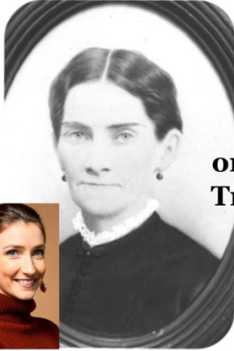
Visit Lincoln and Fort Stanton:

Lincoln Hours and Days of Operation:
Thursday - Monday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed Tuesday & Wednesday
988 Calle La Placita, Lincoln, NM 88338
Tel: 575-653-4025

Fort Stanton Hours and Days of Operation:
Thursday - Monday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed Tuesday & Wednesday
104 Kit Carson Road, Fort Stanton, NM 88323
Tel: 575-354-0341

Women
of
Wyoming

Then & Now



June 7, 2024

**Janelle Molony
on Mary Ringo's 1864
Trip Across the Plains**

A special project of the



&



June is National Great Outdoors Month and National Trails Day is celebrated on June 1. In light of these, the Wyoming Historical Society encourages families to get outside and explore some of the remarkable historic trails in our great state. Some to consider include the Mormon/Oregon and Overland-California Trails in that run through the state, the Bozeman Trail in Eastern Wyoming and the Continental Divide Trail that runs through the Wind River and Grand Tetons into Yellowstone National Park.

If getting out and about is tricky, we invite you to explore trail history with us in the upcoming episode of our special interview series, “Women of Wyoming: Then & Now.” This month’s guest is a trail historian and author of the 2023 award-winning nonfiction *Emigrant Tales of the Platte River Raids*. Janelle Molony speaks about the 1864 Trail Diary of Mrs. Mary Ringo as she traversed across a dangerous portion of the Oregon Trail through then-Idaho Territory’s “Black Hills.” These hills, now recognized as the Laramie Mountains in the Medicine Bow Forest, were nicknamed so because of the dark shadows the tall trees cast on those below.

Molony introduces the emigrant family of future Wild West criminal, Johnny Ringo (made famous by his mysterious death near Tombstone, Arizona (possibly at the hands of then Sheriff, Wyatt Earp). On this journey, Mary Ringo’s husband, Martin, dies from an accident and her teen son must rise to his new role as man of the house while Mary works up her courage to keep going West, despite the tragic loss. “Even though her experience was long ago, it is still very relatable to those who take family road trips today,” Molony claims.

The new episode will air on the Historical Society’s YouTube channel on **Friday, June 7**. This 10-month program is funded in part by a grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund, a program of the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources. The 25-minute interviews are recommended viewing for ages high school and up. Teachers, libraries and museums hosting watch parties can receive a program guide with suggested extension activities. To receive a copy, please e-mail info@wyshs.org.

Contacts for Questions or Verification:

Janelle Molony, Program Director and Oral History Committee chair for WHS, (925) 383-0365 (c), Janelle.molony@yahoo.com

Aley Philips, Exec. Director of the Wyoming Historical Society, 322-3014 (o), executivedirector@wyshs.org

Cindy Brown, President of the WHS, 777-7036 (o), cindy.brown@wyo.gov

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REGISTRATION
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WWHA TO**



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