

# Saddlebag Newsletter

## February 2025

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A supplement to the *WWHA Journal*

Available On-Line via [www.wildwesthistory.org](http://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.**



Ronald Sanders Ligon, Sr., passed away on December 28, 2024 at the age of 87. Ronald was born in Lebanon, TN and raised in Franklin, TN, and was a renowned entrepreneur who founded and owned many businesses. Ronald was known to be an avid outdoorsman and loved the western part of the country. There he became involved in the Wild West History Association and was registered through the SASS Association by his beloved nickname “Cody Kid.”

Ronald loved his local community and tried to serve it every chance that he could. Despite his many accomplishments, Ronald was most proud of his large, blended family. Ron was a fixture at WWHA Roundups and served on the Board of Directors. He received the President’s Silver Star Award for Meritorious Service to WWHA, in 2013.

He was also very involved in the Gunfighter Program.

Ron was well loved by WWHA members and his absence has been missed.

## A SURPRISING FIND in the New Mexico State Archives...

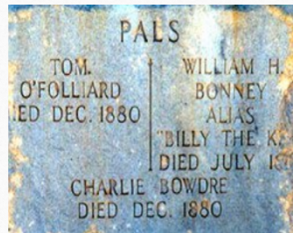
We helped rewrite history!

### Wild West History Association's Request

RE: [EXTERNAL] Records Request  
AS Packard, Gail, SRCA on behalf of A, SRCA  
To: Hunt, Denis, SRCA  
Cc: Edward J. Lanham  
You forwarded this message on 12/9/2024 2:22 PM.  
Request No. 2024-128  
Due Date: 9/26/2023

4. Also, I am searching for a very important document, a probate court record between Manuela Gonzales (Mrs. Charlie Bowdre) and the estate of Charlie Bowdre. I think in San Miguel County. Probably between 1881 and 1886. When Charlie's estate was settled it was claimed by Manuela Gonzales.

Charlie Bowdre was known for two things: 1)  
He rode with Billy the Kid's Gang 2) Pat  
Garrett killed him thinking he was Billy



WWHA in the news, from Eddie Lanham. The WWHA has been recognized by the New Mexico State Archives. They have one correction to make on the last page, as they referred to me as EDWARD JORDAN rather than EDWARD JORDAN LANHAM. This is great publicity for the WWHA. Whenever our boots-on-the-ground research team, Roy Young, Dave George, Pam Potter, Robert Buckley, Kurt House, Steve Rossignol and myself, visits an archives, museum, historical site, historical society or any place researched, first thing we say is our name and we are with the Wild West History Association. It's called Brand Recognition. See attached non-corrected version at bottom of the last page.



Charlie Bowdre married(?) Manuela before he died... but who was she...Herrera or Gonzalez?

Many sources cite that Charlie Bowdre had married TWELVE-Year-Old Manuela Herrera, in Santa Rita, Grant County New Mexico in 1878.

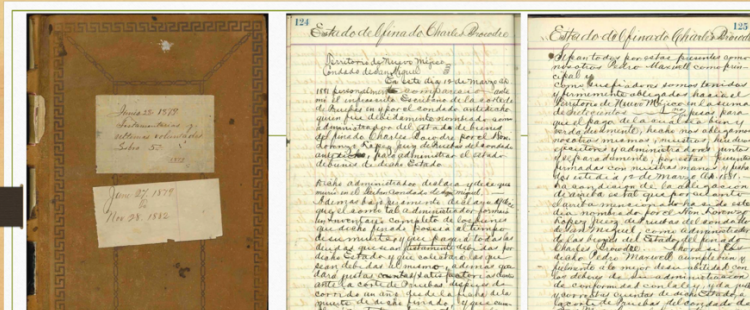
But the 1880 San Miguel County Census record shows her as being 25



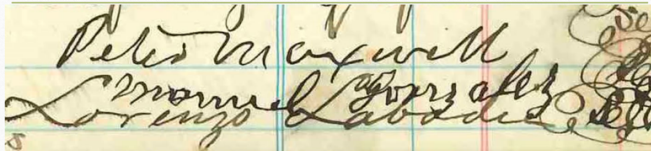
Manuela "Herrera" could not be the woman in the blood-stained photograph as has been stated over and over again in the abundance of Billy the Kid books.

So who did Charlie marry?

Bowdre Charles	11.11.52	
Manuel	11.11.52	m.f.
Bowdre Wm	11.11.52	



Manuela Gonzalez' Signature on the Probate Record



THANKS DENA !!!!!!!  
I found her name at the very bottom of page 125, Manuela Gonzales.  
We very much appreciate what you have done to promote history in truth.

Translated from Spanish to English by  
Nicolasa Chávez, NM Deputy State Historian

este día 12 de marzo A.N. 1881

Pedro Maxwell Sello

Maria [Manuela? Maria el?] Gonzalez Sello

Lorenzo Labader[?] Sello

proven in open court

this day March 12, 1881

Probate Judge [rubrica]

Pedro Maxwell seal

Manuela[?] Gonzalez seal

Lorenzo Labadere seal

This is great, thank you so much! Please also tell Nicholasa that we are deeply indebted for the service provided.



**CHARLIE BOWDRE. REGULATOR,  
COWBOY & GUNFIGHTER "IDENTIFYING  
MANUELA, LADY IN BLOOD-STAINED  
IMAGE"**

Credit to the NM State Archives from  
Edward Jordan, Wild West History Association

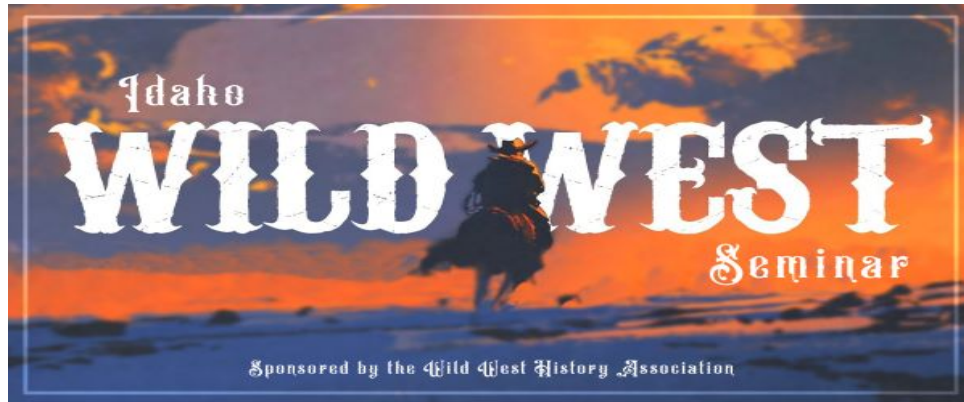
**SPECIAL THANKS**

Paul Johnson  
Ralph Kennedy  
Robert Buckley  
Robert McCubbin Collection  
New Mexico State Archives



Don't Forget our Regional Roundup,  
Booth Museum, Cartersville GA,  
February 15, 2025. We hope to see you  
all there. Meet your new, next best  
friends. :  
<https://www.wildwesthistory.org>





The annual Wild West seminar will be held Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Owyhee County Museum in Murphy, Idaho starting at 9am. The event is free but as there are no restaurants in Murphy you can contact the Museum at 208-495-2319 to secure a luncheon meal.

#### AGENDA

9- 9:30- Joe Hickey- Guns of the Wild West

9:30- 10:15- Marie Clyne – Covered Wagon Women

10:30- 11:15- Jerry Schaefer- Bear River Massacre

11:15-12:00- Mike Youngman- Tap Duncan Part I

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-1:30- Tap Duncan Part 2

1:30-2:15- Bob Sobba –Murders in Portneuf Canyon



2:30-3:15- Bill Betenson- History versus Hollywood on the Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid Movie

3:15 -4:00- Corey Clyne- Garrison Soldiers in Combat

Another Gunfighter has joined the posse.  
Welcome and congratulations to our Journal  
editor, Mathew Bernstein, for his support of WWHA.

Visit our website: <https://www.wildwesthistory.org> Follow us on

Facebook:  [/ 297188461422](https://www.facebook.com/297188461422) Instagram 

YouTube:  [/ wildwesthistoryassociation](https://www.youtube.com/wildwesthistoryassociation) Please comment, like, and subscribe! Wild West History Association  We have a new icon on our YouTube page. There is a Thanks “button” where you can donate!



**Coming up in the March Journal:**

Corey Recko explains the ins and outs of determining fraudulent "newly found" photos of western heroes and villains.

A tip to *beware* (and a hint at what's coming!), we have now slithered into the Year of the Snake.



For those in Texas, here are upcoming events at the Alamo.

[https://www.thealamo.org/visit/calendar/upcoming-8OKU\\_zTFaWY672zenE0lwM-](https://www.thealamo.org/visit/calendar/upcoming-8OKU_zTFaWY672zenE0lwM-)



events?fbclid=IwY2xjawH\_JxxleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHZmbpX9HtWmYX4Q3-  
aCQde2OM8jqpFNbEPg\_aem\_L4S7lYY13YJJgP0CUa0f7Q



**TOMBSTONE FESTIVAL OF WESTERN BOOKS**  
**Friday, March 14, 2025**  
**Schieffelin Hall, Tombstone**

Book Signing with  
**Craig Johnson**  
*Longmire* author

Photos with  
Geronimo  
Wyatt Earp  
Soapy Smith  
& Faro Phil

**Our sponsors include:**  
**Cochise County Corral, Vintage Cowgirls,**  
**Lilly's Tombstone Memories**  
**Mescal Movie Set, Tombstone Distillery**  
**Arlene's, Voices of the West, Branding Iron**  
**Cochise County Historical Society**



Quite an honor for WWHA member, Michael Wallis. Letter to Michael Wallis Re: his service as a Presidential Appointee to the U.S. Congressional Route 66 Centennial Commission.



**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**WASHINGTON**

December 23, 2024

As we conclude our final year in office, I am filled with gratitude for you and your family. Thank you for your service on a board or commission during my Administration—your work has made a true difference in the lives of people across the Nation.

We have accomplished more for the American people in four years than almost anyone thought was possible, and that's because of your hard work and dedication. Much of what we have achieved is being felt already, and so much more will be felt for decades to come. This is our shared legacy.

It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve with you and your family. Happy holidays, and may God bless you all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Biden".



WELCOME  
WWHA –

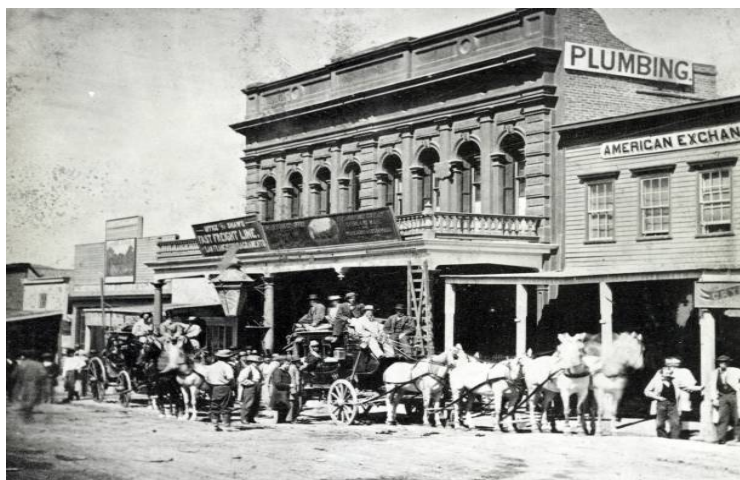
## Roundup 2025



### *Roundup 2025 The Comstock Lode and the Mining Frontier!*

Don't miss this exciting event. Buffalo Bill, Tombstone characters, Wild Bunch, The Donner Party, Mark Twain and more will be represented. Something for everyone. There will be traditional programs such as "An evening with" and the Awards Lunch . Plan to spend a fun day in Virginia City. There will be some new action and an appearance by Mark Twain.

### *Virginia City*



Join us next summer in the BIGGEST LITTLE CITY IN THE WORLD, Reno, Nevada, only twenty miles from Virginia City—where you can swap jokes with Mark Twain, hang around with Charley Flinn, drink bourbon with George Hearst, and, uh, get better acquainted with Julia Bulette!



**WWHA**  
**18th Annual**  
**Roundup**



**July 16-19,**  
**2025**

**Circus Circus**

**407**  
**N. Virginia St.**  
**Reno,**  
**Nevada**

Rooms at Circus Circus can be made direct: book online by June 24 at the casino website. <https://www.caesars.com/circus-circus-reno/hotel> Use, passkey.com/go/SRWWH5. This is the preferred.



We have 4 Josie/Wyatt Earp videos scheduled, for our YouTube Channel. The "Earp" videos will probably generate plenty of discussion, as the "real" Josie and the "real" Wyatt will be exposed. The "Trailer" will air Jan 31 at about 4:00PM. After that, the others are scheduled to be released every 2 weeks. This project was a labor of love, begun about 20 years ago by Casey Tefertiller, Pam Potter and Jeff Wheat, with support of Tom Gaumer and others., and completed by Eddie Lanham. It was filmed of members of the family who housed the Earps in their golden years. These ladies knew Wyatt and Josie personally, lived with them and boy do they have opinions. The footage is candid, honest and sometimes with a twinkle and hint at naughtiness. Here are the release dates after the January 31 trailer. episode one, February 7, episode two, February 21, the final, episode three, March 7.





Last month's photo was of Pam Potter sitting on a wagon. This month, a member at The James Farm. She has provided the following background. It was taken in 1978 when I was 13 at the Jesse James farm taken in Kearney, Missouri. Clay County had purchased the farm from the Barr family and they were in the beginning stages of restoring the cabin and the grounds. The first thing they did was dig up Jesse's original grave.

Jesse was buried there in 1882 then his body was exhumed in 1902 and it was moved to the local cemetery to be with his wife. During the exhumation, the coffin broke spilling Jesse's remains out. A new coffin was brought in for the remains and it was buried in town. The original coffin was left in the grave at the farm.

During the 1978 grave exhumation, the original coffin lid, handles, misc bits of the coffin and...bits of Jesse were found in the grave. The coffin lid is on display at the Jesse James Museum in St. Joseph, MO. Some of the teeth found from this grave were used in the 1995 DNA investigation.

Jesse's not really rested in peace. He was buried in 1882 at the family farm, dug up in 1902 then reburied in the city cemetery then he was dug up and reburied again in 1995 to do DNA testing. He had full funerals in 1882, 1902 and 1995.

At the beginning of each year, the James farm releases their visitor lists. The farm in little ole Kearney, MO once again received visitors from all 50 states and 48 countries. We'll see it all in 2027!



From WWA member, Jeff Broome.

Thought I would share with friends that I am immersed in a new manuscript. While I thought I would have finished a book on Beecher Island by now, a book I have done all the research for and only have to put it all together, this new manuscript crept up on me in interesting ways. I thank cousins Gina Rhoads and CJ Pierce for providing me with copies of all 8 chapters Julia wrote. Pierce and Rhoads wrote a book on their great great grandmother Lucinda Eubanks, captured by Indians during the 1864 war. Fire-Hair Woman is the book the cousins wrote on their relative. It is on Amazon.

Back in 1916 a lady named Julia S. Lambert wrote the first of 8 articles for a small magazine in Colorado called The Trail. She finished her last article in 1920 and then died in California in 1932.

Julia came to Colorado in 1860 at the age of 12 with her parents and two sisters. First in Denver, then in the mountains, then to Buckskin Joe, then to Booneville (today's Boone east of Pueblo), then to Fort Lyon, then to the new Fort Lyon by Las Animas, where she raised a family of six. She married at the first Fort Lyon in January 1863 when she was still just 14. She knows a lot about Sand Creek, cheating Indian agents, etc.

I used one of Julia's chapters from The Trail in my Indian war books, when she told the story of the Black cook at Booneville who served Mrs. Snyder breakfast and commented on



her lovely hair and told her to be careful as the Indians would prize it. Julia heard that conversation and Mrs. Snyder was captured 10 miles from Booneville that same day and killed in an Arapaho village next to Black Kettle's village where the Indians kept 8 captives from their summer raids. Four were released to Wynkoop before Sand Creek.

Julia's writings are wonderful and give the reader a great look at trail travel, early Denver history, mountain mining, and finally life in and around Fort Lyon. I am annotating the memoirs and when finished the Pueblo County Historical Society will publish it, sometime late summer, before the Oregon-California Trails Association has their annual conference in Pueblo in early September 2025.

Julia's pioneer experiences are exciting to read, with much to learn from her writings. But she was also there for both Indian wars of 1864 and 1868 and has very good insights into those issues, which I am annotating.

I think this will be a good book when it comes out, and unlike my earlier writings, the text will only be about 175 pages or so. When illustrations, a preface and Introduction are done, as well as an index, it will probably total around 250 published pages. It is going to be called Plain Tales of the Plains, with a subtitle adding a bit more about the manuscript. It will be printed in paperback, but I will have a limited number of hardcover copies available for sale through me. I might only do about 20. And, if you are wondering, yes, I have contact with Julia's few descendants remaining.



**More to look forward to in the March Journal.**



**SHERMAN FACES DEATH  
AMONG THE INDIANS:  
THE WARREN WAGON TRAIN RAID**

*Allen Lee Hamilton*



**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**