

Saddlebag Newsletter April 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 had a great Round Up with 170 in attendance. For displays we had a 157 year old mud wagon restored by a local rancher and Joe Hickeys gun collection. We had presentations on Tap Duncan , Portneuf Canyon murders , the Bear River Massacre, and military presentation and demonstration.



Congratulations on a successful Regional Roundup.



From YouTube to the WWHA. This should help our numbers rise!

Hi Wild West History Association,

We will soon enable **automatic dubbing** for new video uploads on your channel. This means that YouTube will automatically generate translated audio tracks in different languages, making your content accessible to more viewers. Videos in Spanish, Portuguese, German, French, Italian, Hindi, Indonesian, and Japanese will be dubbed into English, and videos in English will be dubbed into those languages.

No action is needed – we'll enable this on your channel in the coming weeks. Once enabled, when you upload a new video, we will automatically add the dubbed audio to your video. In some cases, we may be unable to generate the dubbed audio – you will be able to see the status of dubbed audio in YouTube Studio. We are not currently offering an option to automatically dub existing videos.

Effective today, **you can turn off automatic dubbing for your entire channel** in your Channel settings > Upload defaults > Advanced settings > Automatic Dubbing.

Once auto dubbing is enabled for your channel, while uploading new videos you will also have the option to **turn off automatic dubbing for that video**. Visit the link below to learn more about how to manage auto dubbing including how to review dubs before publishing.



We need auction items for both the silent and live auction at the Roundup. If you have anything you would like to donate, books, jewelry, western art, collectables, etc., either bring it with you, send it with someone who is driving or mail it to :

Alan Blanchette

160 Apple Lane

Aptos, CA 95003

**Former WWHA
Board Member
Herb Marsh has
died.**

**Herb Marsh, of
Lincoln New
Mexico, WWHA
charter member,
retired board
member and past
treasurer, passed
away on**



**Herb was very passionate about Wild West History and
Lincoln New Mexico in particular where he volunteered with
several history groups.**

**The sympathy of all WWHA is with Herb's wife Chula and
their family.**



WILD WEST HISTORY ASSOCIATION JOURNAL – JUNE 2025

LAST SHOT
"DOC" HOLLIDAY'S
FINAL GUNFIGHT
AT LEADVILLE

Michael Koch



WILD WEST HISTORY ASSOCIATION

18TH ANNUAL ROUNDUP

“I SHOT A MAN IN RENO”

JULY 16-19, 2025



Wild West History Association: The Comstock Lode and the Mining Frontier!

Roundup Schedule of Events is here!

Wednesday, July 16th

9:00-3:00 Board of Directors Meeting-Mandalay #1

1:00-5:00 Roundup Registration- Ballroom Foyer-Turn in silent and live auction items

1:00-5:00 Vendor/Exhibitor Set-up- Mandalay A

6:00-7:30 Opening Reception with light hors d'oeuvres. Please wear name badges for this and all events

7:30-8:00 The Trial of William F. Cody- A skit by J. David Holt also with Roy Young & Gregory Urbach

Thursday, July 17th

8:00-5:00 Roundup Registration-Turn in silent and live auction items

9:00-9:30 Welcome, Presentations, Announcements

Gerald Schaefer, Alan Blanchette Roundup Co-Chairs, welcome, acknowledge special guests and

present overview of Roundup

Invocation by Roy Young 2nd Vice President of WWHA

Comments by Paul Marquez President of WWHA

Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve

9:30-10:05 John Boessenecker- The First Frontier Train Robbery

10:05-10:30 Morning break

10:30-11:05 Anne Collier- Julia Bulette: A Mistress with a Heart of Gold in a Silver Town

11:30-1:00 Six-Shooter Awards Luncheon

Awards Presentations: Tim Hagaman

1:30-2:05 Bill Betenson- Butch Cassidy and the Winnemucca Bank Robbery

2:05-2:40 Michael Bell- The Counterfeit Cassidys

2:40-3:00 Afternoon break

3:00-3:35 Michael Paul Mahaljevich- The West and a Man Named Watkins: Perseverance, Pictures and Posterity

3:35-4:10 Bob Candland- Johnny Ringo: Self Murder

4:10-7:30 Dinner on your own

7:30-9:00 Evening Panel- The Dodge Dilemma: Undercover Agent or Blowhard

Moderator- Ron Woggon

Panelists- Jean Smith, John Boesseneker, Casey Teffertiller, Gary Roberts

Friday, July 18th

9:00 Begin loading buses for Virginia City (place to be announced)

9:30 Depart hotel for Virginia City

10:30 Arrive Virginia City. Walking tour and lunch on your own.

1:00-2:00 For those interested, attend the Virginia City Outlaws shootout

4:00 Begin loading buses

4:30 Depart Virginia City for hotel

7:30 – 9:00 Roy Young- “An Evening With...”

Saturday, July 19th

8:00-12:00 Roundup Registration

8:30-9:00 Annual WWHA Business Meeting, Election of Board Members Paul Marquez Presiding

9:00-9:10 Morning Announcements/Banquet Information
9:10-9:30 “The Last Roundup” Memorials for Deceased Members- Roy
Young & Gerald
Schaefer
9:30-10:05 Matt Bernstein- Mark Twain Crime Reporter
10:05-10:30 Morning Break
10:30-11:15 Annual “Gunfighters” Session- Gerald Schaefer & Kurt House
Co-Chairs Speaker
Casey Teffertiller- Wyatt Earp: Tarnished Times in the Silver State
11:15-11:30 Announcements, Roundup Co-Chairs
11:30-12:30 Final Opportunity to Visit Vendors
12:30-2:00 “Gunfighter” Luncheon-location to be announced
12:30-5:30 Afternoon Break
5:30-9:00 Annual “Boots and Spurs” Banquet Dress-up Occasion. Please
wear Badges
6:00-7:00 Dinner
7:00-8:15 Live Auction – Erik Erdman
8:15-9:00 Jim Dunham- A Visit with Mark Twain

Visit our website wildwesthistory.org for hotel reservation
and information and Roundup Registration.

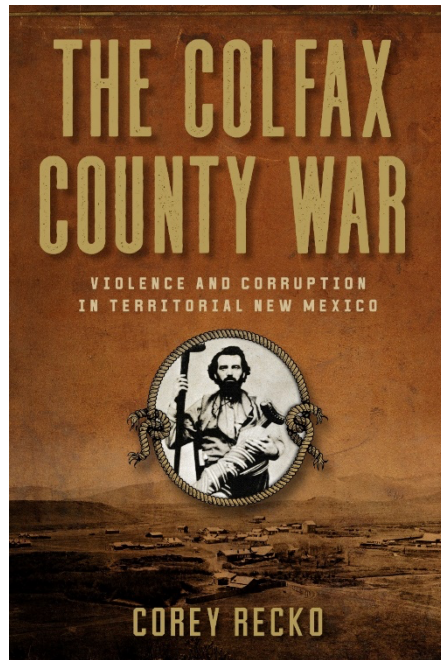
Look for Vendor Applications on our website.



We have two new Gunfighters, **James Townsend from St Albans, WV** and
Mark McCarty from Little Rock, AR. Thank you for your support of
WWHA.



You will find our authors have been very busy. See what they have
been doing in this issue of the Saddlebag.



Congratulations Corey Recko

The Colfax County War: Violence and Corruption in Territorial New Mexico by WWHA member Corey Recko, and published by the University of North Texas Press, is the winner of the Western Heritage Wrangler Award for Nonfiction.



WWHA Saddlebag. You Tube Sadie Earp Interviews. Peter Brand

The WWHA recently added three fascinating interviews to their *You Tube* channel with three women who knew Josephine “Sadie” Earp during the collective period 1925 – 1944. As I had recently published a book dealing with the truth about Sadie’s adventurous and scandalous formative years from 1870 – 1883, I was anxious to study the interviews. Like most, I had never seen them before and I wanted to learn if the new information I had discovered and published in my book, aligned with the general recollections of the women who were interviewed. It is important to note that the three women, although elderly, were all very sharp of mind.

The interviews, conducted mainly by Earp author, Casey Tefertiller, in the 1990s, covered two different time-frames, 10 years apart and, therefore, each woman had their own views of the “real Sadie.” These interviews were released by the WWHA on *You Tube* over a 4-week period in reverse chronological order, with the later period 1937 – 1944 being covered first.

The first interview was conducted with Jeanne Cason Laing. She was the daughter of Ernest Cason and Mabel Earp, who was a cousin of Wyatt. After Wyatt had passed away in 1929, Sadie was supported by her wealthy younger sister, Hattie Lehnhardt, and some royalties from Stuart Lake's biography of Wyatt Earp, published in 1931. When her generous sister, Hattie, died in 1936, Sadie's income was cut off and she went looking for Mabel Earp Cason, who lived in Los Angeles. Mabel and her sister, Vinnolia Earp Ackerman, were both educated women and Sadie wanted them to document her life story. Sadie ingratiated herself with their families and actually moved into the Cason family home to make the writing process more convenient.

Jeanne Cason Laing was aged 16 or 17 years-old when she first met and then lived with Sadie at the Cason family home. Jeanne remembered Sadie as an elderly, somewhat refined lady, who was vain and was used to wearing nice clothes. I suspect this was the result of the influence of Sadie's wealthy sister, Hattie, who cared for her after Wyatt's death. Jeanne, therefore never met Wyatt, but she was a young woman, approaching adulthood, and she witnessed, first-hand, her mother's attempts to pry the truth from Sadie about her early life; her time in Tombstone and the truth regarding her first relationship with John Behan, and when she subsequently took up with Wyatt as his "wife." All attempts proved useless, as Jeanne noted that Sadie could be difficult to deal with and was ashamed of her Tombstone experience. Eventually, Mabel Earp Cason and Vinnolia Earp Ackerman abandoned the book project, due to Sadie's refusal to give an honest account of the Tombstone section of the story. To quote Jeanne, "Sadie commented that readers would think she was a 'bad woman' if the truth was published." Jeanne knew Sadie was hiding something damning about her past - something that could never be told.

The second interview released in the series was conducted with Elena Welsh, who was the grand-daughter of Charles Welsh, an adventurous and hard-working rancher, farmer, and miner. The large Welsh family lived in Needles, California, near the Colorado River, during the period 1900 – 1915. This period included the time Wyatt and Sadie spent in the same region, camping out on the desert and mining for silver and gold. Wyatt formed a close bond with Charles Welsh on the desert and had mining interests with Walter Abrams, who was the husband of one of Welsh's stepdaughters. Sadie and Wyatt would spend their winters on the desert, camping and mining below the Needles region, and then move back to cheap Los Angeles lodgings for the hotter summer months. By 1920, Charles Welsh had relocated permanently to a home on 18th Street in Los Angeles. By the mid-1920s, Wyatt and Sadie were not aging well, and were down on their luck. As Wyatt became increasingly prone to illness, and it was obvious Sadie could not care for him, the couple were invited to live at the Welsh family home. Elena Welsh was only 5 or 6 years-old when she met Sadie and Wyatt, and then spent time with them.

Her home was still in Needles, but she and her sister, Tina, would live with their grandparents at 18th Street in Los Angeles during the summer months.

Elena's memories of Wyatt and Sadie are filtered through the eyes of a very young girl, but they are also most revealing about Sadie's vices. Elena was close to her Aunt Stella (born in 1879) and Aunt Grace (born in 1901) who also resided at the Welsh family home. Both the aunts had known Wyatt and Sadie for well over 10 years, and they cared for Wyatt as Sadie appeared unable, or was absent, due to a need to satiate her gambling addiction. The Welsh family were generous and caring toward Wyatt and Sadie during their time of need, and Elena remembered Wyatt as being particularly kind to women. In some ways, Elena's recollections are very closely

linked to those of her Aunt Stella and Aunt Grace, and the more salacious stories told during the interview - one in particular - appear to come from information Stella and Grace revealed to Elena about Sadie days as a prostitute. In contrast to Jeanne Cason Laing's experiences 10 years later, Elena remembered Sadie as "down-on-her-luck, a compulsive gambler, tough, vulgar and street-wise."

The third and final interview in the series was conducted with Elena's older sister, Tina Welsh. Tina was 9, 10, and 11 years of age when she knew Wyatt and Sadie at the Welsh home in Los Angeles. Of the three interviews, Tina's memories of Sadie were probably the most damning. Tina, once again, referred several times to her Aunt Stella and Aunt Grace's knowledge of Sadie's dubious "loose woman" past, and added details of her Uncle Pat's eye-witness accounts of Sadie's compulsive gambling. Once Wyatt and Sadie finally moved out of the Welsh home, and into their own tiny rented one-room place around the corner, Tina's memories of Wyatt are noticeably poignant. Tina would deliver lunch to an infirm Wyatt on a regular basis to ensure he had at least one decent meal per day, and to keep him company. Tina remembered Wyatt fondly and confirmed that, after his death, her own mother, Alma, and her Aunt Grace had been officially asked to witness Wyatt's cremation. Once again, in stark contrast to Jeanne Cason Laing's thoughts, Tina remembered Sadie as a "taker, who did not contribute during hard times; she could be obnoxious and crude – a product of her lifestyle and her past."

These brief background summaries are provided to give some context to each of the interviews, and are by no means intended to be comprehensive in regards to the actual content, which is far more voluminous. I found all the material provided by the three women to be insightful, and a precious and well-presented addition to our knowledge of Wyatt and, particularly, Sadie at two different stages of her later life. We are indebted to Jeanne, Elena, Tina and Casey Tefertiller and all at the WWHA for allowing us access to these memories. I would urge all members and their friends, who have an interest in Wyatt and Sadie, to view these videos on the WWHA *You Tube* channel. :

<https://www.youtube.com/@WildWestHistoryAssociation/videos> For those readers and viewers who are interested in the truth about Sadie's past - the past she refused to reveal to Mabel Earp Cason and Vinnolia Earp Akerman, I would suggest securing a copy the recently published book "Josephine 'Sadie' Earp: The Sordid Truth 1870-1883", which is available world-wide at Amazon.



Matt Bernstein and David de Haas at the book launch for Bernstein's new book, *Team of Giants*. No one put a gun to David's head to be there!



KIRKUS REVIEWS

BELLE STARR

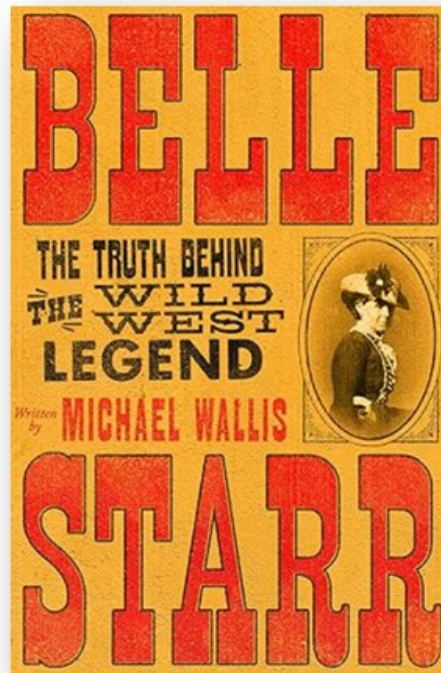
THE TRUTH BEHIND THE WILD WEST LEGEND

BY MICHAEL WALLIS · RELEASE DATE: JUNE 24, 2025

A brisk, spirited biography.

The trials of a frontier woman.

Teasing through the myths and gossip swirling around Belle Starr (1848-1889), reputedly the most famous female outlaw of the 19th century, Wallis, biographer of Billy the Kid, among others, finds a complicated, defiant woman. Myra Maibelle Shirley was born in the backwoods of Missouri to a family of proud slave owners. Her father, at 42, had been married several times by the time he met 21-year-old Eliza Pennington; some of his offspring by earlier marriages were older than his new bride. John and Eliza had six children of their own: Their second son, Bud, was Myra's favorite. They galloped together on horseback through the countryside, he taught her how to handle a gun, and by the time she was a teenager, "she was a fearless rider and a crack shot." His death during the Civil War upended her life: She vowed, somehow, to get revenge. Educated briefly at a female academy in Carthage, Missouri, where she was one of the first students, she learned by living. Wallis captures the rousing atmosphere of the lawless west—Belle's family moved to Texas after Carthage was burned by guerrillas—with



outlaws going “on the scout” to evade capture; horse thieves; bank, train, and stagecoach robbers; and murderous gangs terrorizing communities. Although Belle never killed anyone and was convicted only once, of horse theft, her life revolved around outlaws: family, lovers, husbands. Her first husband’s escapades led to his being murdered at age 29. Another husband, a mixed-race Cherokee, was killed in an exchange of “deadly gunplay,” as was Belle herself, ambushed in a murder still unsolved. ***Wallis’ Belle is a brazen woman, refusing to bow to the constrictions of her time: lawless, if not an outlaw herself.***

A brisk, spirited biography.

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Categories:

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR | HISTORY | UNITED STATES



WILD WEST HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Reno Roundup

July 16th – 19th, 2025

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Please consider a donation to any of the below options:

Item	Amount	Total
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Board Luncheon (5 needed)	\$ 100.00	\$
A/V Equipment rental (5 needed)	100.00	
Outlaw Gunfight show at		
Virginia City (5 needed)	100.00	
Use of buses (5 needed)	200.00	

Any donation amount will help defray the cost to WWHHA for the above activities and improve the financial status of WWHHA.

For your generosity, WWHHA will recognize your donation at the above activity. Note your choice!

Checks payable to WWHHA

**Mail to: Jean Smith, Treasurer
933 E. Jennings St.
Safford, AZ 85546**

**or Paypal:
treasurer@wildwest
history.org**



Another "Thank you"

Good Afternoon, Mr. Lanham,

Thank you so much for sending the link to the new video! I apologize for just now getting back to you, I was out of town but was pleasantly surprised upon my arrival with the uploaded video! It was a fantastic experience working with you and I hope our paths will cross again soon. The video was expertly put together and I could not thank you enough. Thank you for featuring Fort Lancaster!

Best Regards,

David E. Martinez



David Martinez

Educator/Interpreter
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visitfortlancaster.com

I apologize for some of the formatting that is off. I have been having computer issues.

HAPPY SPRING

