

for reference.

Saddlebag Newsletter

December 2025

Pam Potter, Editor

Spiritwind2@hotmail.com

A supplement to the WWHHA Journal

Available On-Line via

www.wildwesthistory.org

Welcome to the Saddlebag Newsletter. Here is the latest information from WWHHA. 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

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.

We did it! We have reached over 10,000 subscribers on our YouTube page.

Our **YouTube** page: <https://www.youtube.com/@WildWestHistoryAssociation/videos> is now monetized so WWHHA gets paid for views. **Please subscribe, watch and like our videos, and you are contributing to WWHHA. It is free.**

Say hello to our newest members:

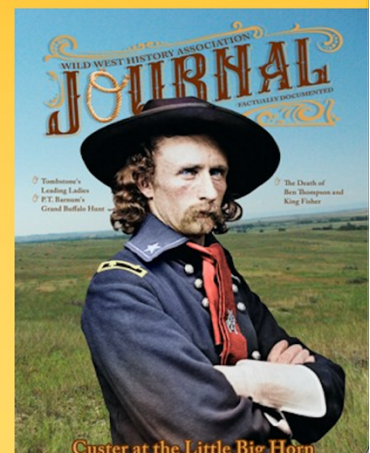
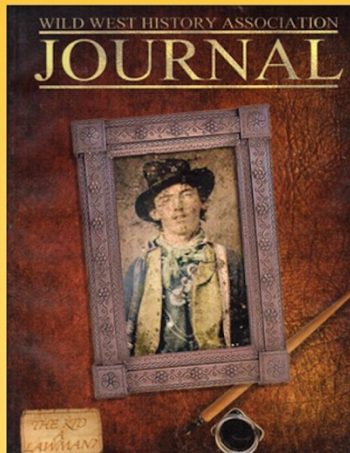
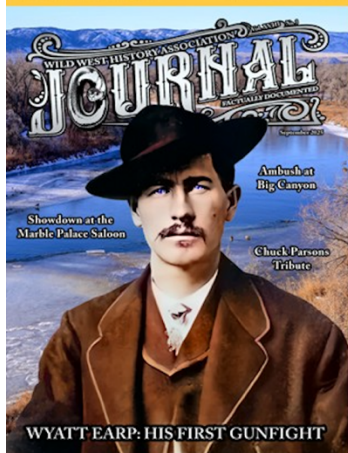
Stuart Hederman, Jackson, MS
Phyllis Bowman, Albuquerque, MN
Kenneth Bendell, Dover, MA
Jean Jolly, Grapevine, TX
Catharine, Moser, Lewistown, MT

Thank you for joining WWHHA.

JOIN US IN THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT
FOR THE WILD WEST HISTORY 2026 ROUNDUP
DURING THE ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL IN

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

JULY 15-18 AT THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL
FOR HOTEL INFORMATION, CLICK THE LINK:
[WILD WEST HISTORY ASSOCIATION](https://www.wildwesthistory.org)





Crown Plaza, Albuquerque, New México



Another Good One Gone

Most of you have already heard, Bill O'Neal passed away November 3, 2025. He was a beloved member of WWHHA and Texas State Historian 2012-2018. His list of accomplishments is long. The December Journal will have a full "In Memoriam".

In lieu of flowers or other types of donations, you may donate a memorial to a WWHHA member who has passed. A card is then sent to the family saying you donated (not the amount) to WWHHA in their name. If you would like to donate a memorial to Bill O'Neal, or any others who have recently passed, please send a check to:

Jean E Smith, WWHHA Treasurer, 993 E Jennings Street, Safford, AZ 85546

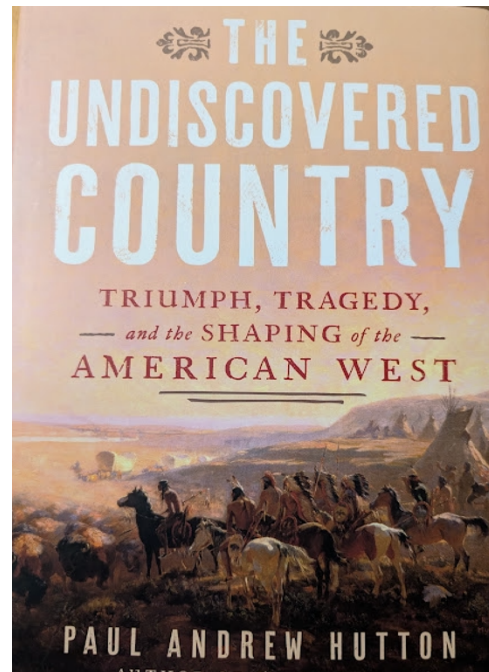
or PayPal: treasurer@wildwesthistory.org

Be sure & designate who it is for.



Scottsdale Museum of the West

On November 22nd, Madison and First Vice President Donna Harrell attended a presentation at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West, where acclaimed author Paul Andrew Hutton discussed his new bestselling book *The Undiscovered Country*. The *Wall Street Journal* describes the book as "The definitive history of the American West." Mr. Hutton's presentations are always insightful, lively, and thoroughly enjoyable. Also in attendance was *True West Magazine's* Bob Boze Bell. Running until the end of the year, the museum is featuring Billy the Kid related artwork by Mr. Bell, Thom Ross and Buckeye Blake. "The Resurrection of Billy the Kid" exhibit is described as "part art show, part wake, part Wild West showdown".



John Boessenecker's Book Signing for *Bring Me the Head of Joaquin Murrieta* at the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum



By Matt Bernstein

On November 9, 2025, Anne Collier, David D. de Haas, and I—WWHA members all—met in the City of Industry, about twenty miles east of Downtown Los Angeles, to see John Boessenecker speak before a crowd. The setting was the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum. On the grounds is a mausoleum which holds the bones not only of the Workman and Temple family—who were hardscrabble Los Angeles pioneers—but also Pio Pico, the last of California's governors to serve under the Mexican flag. Along with the museum itself there is also lush picnic grounds and a pond, which serves as a home to a number of beautiful turtles and koi fish.

John himself was true to form. He dazzled the crowd with tales of Joaquin Murrieta, explained



how the idea for the biography germinated over decades, and that the greatest challenge in the writing of it was parsing the truth from the “baloney,” as he called it. He spoke for nearly an hour and half, took questions, and then signed books, which naturally sold out. Anne, David, and I were chatting outside during the book signing when I spied a happy couple ask a man (who had attended the lecture and bought a book) if he could take a photo of them in front of the gazebo. The man obliged. He then pointed to John.

“You see that man there, signing books?” he asked the couple. “That is the greatest writer in the world! Now that’s a compliment to remember.



Check out the great merchandise you can order from WWHA.

WILD WEST HISTORY ASSOCIATION COUNTRY STORE

Grey Fleece Vest XL, 2XL
\$40



Grey Blanket In Pouch
40 X 56
\$30



Black Sweatshirt Hooded & Full zip
S, M, XL, 2XL, 3XL
\$55



Short Sleeve Denim Shirt Faded Blue:
S, M, XL
Ink Blue: M, L, XL, 3XL
\$40



Bella Heather V-Neck
M, L, XL, 2XL
\$25



Pocket Polo
Red: XL, 2XL, 4XL
Blue: XL, 2XL, 3XL
\$35



Ladies V-Neck Front or Side Logo
Peach, Lavender, Fuschia
Email for Sizes
\$25



Ladies Knit
Black: S, M, L
Blue: L, XL, 2XL
\$40



Beige Tote Bag
\$15



Round Neck Tee Front or Side Logo
Grey, Red, Sand
Email for Sizes
\$25



Key Chain
\$4



Rawhide Money Clip
\$20



Spatula
\$25



Camo Mesh Cap
\$25



Pink Camo Mesh Cap
\$25



Guide Hat Black or Khaki
\$25



Prices include free shipping & a WWHA Button

To place an order, email: crystalkate@gmail.com

or, mail your order to:
Jean E Smith WWHA Treasurer
993 E Jennings Street Safford, AZ 85546

WWHA Button Freebie





Wild West History Association
YouTube
December 2025, Every Friday After 3:00PM



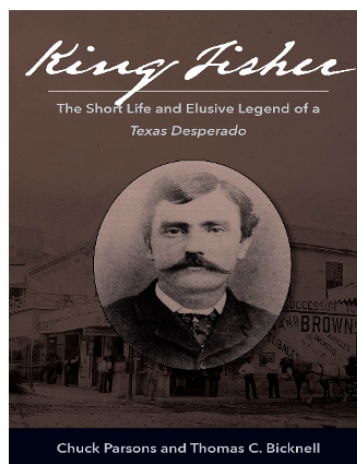
12-5 Big Fifty Sharps,
Target White Buffalo



12-12 Andrew Jackson Sowell
Indian Fighter



12-19 Roosevelt's Cowboy Regiment



12-26 King Fisher



Correspondence initiated by a fifth-grade student to WWHA board member Kurt House.

It is so important that we communicate with the younger generation. Thank you, Kurt for giving so generously of your time and I am sure making Jaxon's day.

Dear Mr. House,

I am a fifth grade student at Eswood Grade school. We are studying the Wild West and the traveling of the trails. I am super interested in this reading module, and getting information from you would be an honor. I have already learned some spectacular information and reading information from you would be amazing. I have seen your website and that was what sparked my interest in you.

I am curious about the guns used during the wild west. These are my questions.

- Did they have to load gun powder down the barrel?
- How much money did the guns cost back then
- Where would you get the guns back then?
- What were some common causes of gun fights?
- How much money do the guns cost today?

I am very interested in the guns that they used which is why I have asked these questions. If you could respond I would certainly appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Jaxon Miller

Kurt responded with a very lengthy email explaining in detail the different kinds of firearms, their dates, manufacturers, ammunition, where and how they were used, and more.

Here is Jaxon's response:

Hello,

Thank you for even considering responding to my questions. You gave some amazing information. Me and my class all read it and were amazed that you have guns like that.

I was even more excited when we read that you would like to publish my letter in the journal. My teacher asked my mom and she said that it was okay. Our school is named Eswood Grade School and is located in Illinois. Our address is 304 Main Street, Lindenwood, IL 61049. We are a rural school, and I only have three classmates. Getting a message from an expert like you was a big accomplishment. My teacher would be happy to have you video call with our class if you would like to. I am going to make a presentation with the information you have provided for me.

My teacher is CC'ed on this email if you could respond to the both of us. Thank you.

sincerely,
Jaxon Miller

Ben Traywick tribute

By
David deHaas

Another immense irreplaceable loss of a legend in the field of Wild West history/Earpiana;



prolific author and Emeritus “Official Tombstone Town Historian” Ben Traywick passed away in Sierra Vista, Arizona on October 7, 2025.

I first met Ben 30 years ago in the mid-1990s at a book signing he had in Tombstone, Arizona. After our original meeting, and through the ensuing 1990s, we had numerous unique encounters, the most memorable of which was on my birthday in 1998. It was about 9 o’clock at night and our family was leisurely strolling about the town with a friend and local Tombstone resident. He asked me, “If you had anything you could choose to do on your birthday, what would it be?”

Without hesitation, I

immediately answered, “I would like to hang out with Ben Traywick and get to know him better, have him autograph my books, and discuss Earpiana.” Before we knew it, he was hastening us about town and to the Traywick residence. It was obvious that Ben was going to bed as the downstairs of his home was totally dark and only a few lights were on upstairs, but the French doors to his balcony were open. Our friend loudly shouted and called for Ben to come out. Ben’s wife Mary came out onto their second story deck and replied that Ben was unavailable as he was already in his “chonies.” Our friend answered that he had big fans of Ben’s down here (me and my family) and we wanted to meet up and talk with him, and it was my birthday today. The next thing we knew, Ben had dressed, come downstairs, turned all the lights back on, and met us in

his office, where we all spent hours discussing everything Earp and Doc Holliday. What a perfect and memorable birthday, and one of my favorites ever!

Other memorable times with the Traywicks include Mary's fabulous homemade Mexican dinners at their residence. Sitting and discussing Wild West history for hours on end outside on their 2nd floor balcony afterwards is an indescribable pleasure. Watching the costumed people saunter through town, and the beautiful lightning storms and monsoons over the Dragoon Mountains miles to the East, which Ben had a spectacular view of from his home on the east side of Fifth Street. He had built this home himself on the site of the old Wells Fargo Museum across the street from the famous Crystal Palace Saloon.

Those times are now gone forever, and me and my entire family (Mary, Lindsay, Heather, and Lance) are devastated. No more of our hours long late-night discussions in Ben's office nightly when we are in town - 😞. Tombstone will never be the same for the de Haas Family, or any other young and upcoming historians/Earp scholars seeking encouragement in their research and writings! So sadly, they'll now never be able to fully appreciate what they are missing out on.

Tulsa Gun Show

The biannual Tulsa Gun Show, the largest gun show in the world at approximately 3500 tables, was held the weekend of November 7-9, 2025 and attracted thousands of visitors from all over the world. WWHHA members Roy Young, Dave George and Kurt House attended and were able to have dinner with our own Tulsa resident and twice Pulitzer Prize



nominee and WWHHA Director Michael Wallis who regaled us with some of his fascinating stories.

Visitors are amazed by the variety of merchandise, from Native American items, antique advertising, western literature, art, swords and bladed weapons from various Countries, firearms and weapons of all kinds as well as many other antiques. To give you an idea of what it takes to cover the show, someone calculated that an attendee will need to walk 3 1/2 miles to see the contents of every table. Truly a walk through history and cultures, visiting this show will inspire you to learn more not only about the history of the American Wild West but enable you to place the period in its correct historical context thereby enhancing your enjoyment and appreciation of your place in history. For more information on this show held in the Spring and Fall, contact tulsaarmsshow.com.

- submitted by Kurt House



Our members have been busy.

Here is a links to a literary essay by Mark Lee Gardner published in Literary Hub about his new book, BROTHERS OF THE GUN.

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flithub.com%2Fwhat-set-off-the-showdown-at-the-o-k-corral-an-anti-gun->

Review of Michael Wallis book about Belle Starr.

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnewmysticsreviews.blogspot.com%2F2025%2F11%2Fa-fascinating-story-without-lies->



A New Way to Ride Into History—YouTube Shorts!

The WWHA is stepping into the modern frontier! We've added **YouTube Shorts** to our channel—quick-hit stories packed with Old West drama, intrigue, and adventure. Saddle up, click in, and help us reach a whole new generation of Western history fans.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo36_i0ww29jISZ8w99QgwA



Did you know WWHHA has indexes of all their Journal articles from 2008 through 2023? Go to our website wildwesthistory.org, select “News Bits” then “Journal indexes”. You can find by author or subject. This is a valuable resource for anyone writing about Western history.

There is an inquiry form you can use to find a back issue. There are also samples of some outstanding Journal articles that might be just the story you are looking for.



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

