



GUAJALOTES, ZOPILOTES, Y PAISANOS

Newsletter of the Hillsboro Historical Society

**February, 2013
Volume 6 Number 1**

Editor: Harley Shaw

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ACTIVITIES

Membership

Patti has designed our membership cards and is sending them to new members and those that have renewed. She also sent out renewal announcements. As of February 16, 2013, we have 27 individual, 19 family, and 5 business members. Supporting businesses are: Aldos Attic, Barbershop Café, Black Range Lodge, Black Range Vinyards, and Spit and Whittle Club. Memberships last from February to February. A membership form is on the back page of this newsletter.

Elections

We had no new volunteers for the board and Sonja, Patti, and Larry all agreed to serve another term. They were elected by acclamation at the February 12 annual meeting. Larry stepped down from the president position, and the board elected Harley Shaw to serve as president, Jamie Lee as vice-president, Robin Tuttle as secretary, and Susan Binneweg to be treasurer. The board has decided that no additional board positions are needed at this time, but we are actively involving more members at large more in the various committees. As noted below, a call for help on the Fountain Trial play has received an amazing response from the community.

Events-fundraising

Our booth at Christmas in the Foothills attracted a lot of attention. We solicited new members and sold copies of *Around Hillsboro*. We have now cleared \$1046 in direct sales and royalties on the book.

Garland Bills, Sonja, Robin, and Val Werker have finally set the Fountain Trial Re-

enactment in motion and have received extremely gratifying response from the community. To date, at least seventeen individuals from Hillsboro and Lake Valley have established Executive, Promotion and Events, Re-enactment, and Set and Graphics Design teams. They have met twice, began trial readings and role assignment. Our own Hillsboro Pickers will provide background music. We will have a Labor Day weekend opening that will feature multiple showings of the play, along with possible showings of the new movie, *Among the Dust of Thieves*. A home tour is also being planned.

Jamie Lee has now received eight items to be offered for sale. These were donated by board members, mostly antiques or art pieces. Paid-up members will get the first opportunity to buy these pieces. Beginning two weeks after they are announced, all of Jamie's clientele will be able to purchase the items. Items will have set prices established by the donors and Jamie. This will be an ongoing process, with new items to be added as they become available. We will welcome donations from the general membership or from the public. Anyone having an item they would like to donate, please contact Jamie at 575-652-7728 or jamieleehawii@gmail.com.

Black Range Museum

We hope to begin an inventory of materials in the Black Range Museum right after March 1. Sonja continues working with owner June Anders. June has been away recently and has asked us to wait until March to start. Harley has been exploring museum software in search of a program that is user friendly and appropriate for a small museum.

Peltier Paintings

The two Leonard Peltier paintings are still available through the Leonard Peltier Gallery. Anyone interested in these should contact Monica Donovan via www.leonardpeltierart.com.

Lomahaftewa and Granados paintings

If anyone wants more information on these or on the Peltier paintings, please contact Harley at 575-895-5385 Jamie at the phone number or email address given above.

Fire Truck

Larry reports that he has started the function fire truck. As the weather warms, he plans to move it into his shop. As noted above, Jamie

is raising funds for repairs on the truck. We hope to farm out some of the mechanical work and speed the process. Brakes are presently a priority, and we'd like to find a local mechanic who would be willing to take these on.

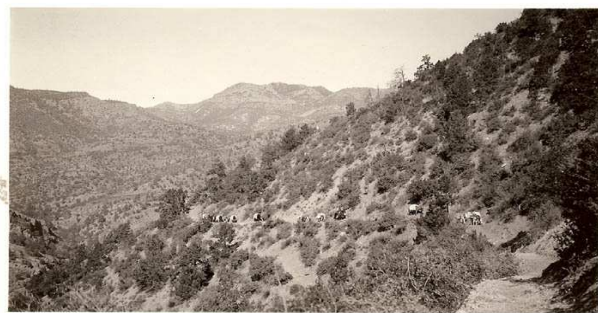
New Sign at the Junction

At our February meeting, the board allocated \$1200 to have the sign at the junction of Highways 152 and 27 replaced. Robin initially suggested that we might take this on as a HHS project, and Jamie contacted Sue Bason who owns the property where the sign resides. Sue has submitted a new design, which the board approved. Trevor Roberts has agreed to take down the old sign and set the necessary posts and framework for the new one. HHS now has a standing sign committee and will be looking at locations where signs can be placed at each end of town as well.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS AND NEWS

Roads and Trails

As promised in our last newsletter, Joe Whitham has sent us an article about his grandfather, J. D. Whitham and the Hillsboro to Kingston Toll Road. Joe and I have had quite a bit of correspondence about local roads and trails over the past few months. There's a lot we don't know about how people moved around this area. For example, below is a photo Joe sent of a pack string on a well-maintained trail. So far, no one who has been able to identify where it was taken. We are still looking. Keep in mind that sometimes these old photos were inadvertently printed backwards. You also have to envision how it might look if the image were flipped horizontally.



LOCAL HISTORY

Hillsboro to Kingston Toll Road

By Joe Whitham

My grandfather, Joseph David (J.D.) Whitham, came to Kingston in February, 1884 from Valley Grove, West Virginia. In March his wife, Mary Jane and daughters, Xavia and Bronte and son, Datemus, joined him. They initially lived in a six-room building next to the Kliner brewery at the west end of town. J.D. began constructing a mill on the north bank of Percha stream at the point where Ladrone Gulch enters Middle Percha.

Having been raised on a farm in West Virginia he undoubtedly felt lost without land of his own. On July 24, 1884 he bought a small ranch known as the Starr Ranch located on the Middle Percha about three miles from Kingston. On August 14, 1884 he paid A. J. Starr and G. A. Starr one hundred fifty-five dollars. This would become the site of the tollgate on the road between Kingston and Hillsboro. The ranch is now owned by Jimmy Bason.

In April, 1889 J.D. and three other men drew up Articles of Incorporation of the Sierra Road Company. These men were: M.R.W Park, Edward W. Carver, and John H. Jones. Rather than list himself, J.D. listed his wife, Mary Jane. This was probably due to the fact that J.D. was the Notary Public and it wouldn't look right if he was also one of the officers of the new company. J.D. did witness the signatures of the four officers and did sign as Notary Public, Sierra Co., N.M. and the document was filed at Santa Fe July 8, 1889.

The document specified:

First: The name of said corporation is Sierra Road Company.

Second: That the purposes for which it is formed, are: the building of a wagon road from a point near to, or in the town of Hillsboro, up the banks of the Middle Percha Creek past the Starr Ranch to the town of Kingston, and through the same to the summit of the Black Range of Mountains, at or near that point known as the Percha Pass. All of this line of road in the County of Sierra and Territory of New Mexico, and by the most available route from, in, to, along or between the points named above. Thence from the Percha Pass, passing into the County of Grant in said territory, upon the waters of Iron and Gallinas Creeks, by the most available route to the Mimbres Valley proper and to the main wagon road in said Valley. Also to make, build, and operate branch roads to Mining, Timber or Ranch camps including Lake Valley, North Percha and other towns and collect toll on the said main or branch roads. This to include Lake Valley, North Percha and other towns.

Third: That the place where its principal business is to be transacted, shall be Kingston, Sierra County, New Mexico.

Fourth: That the term for which it is to exist is Fifty years from and after the date of its incorporation.

Fifth: That the number of its Directors or Trustees shall be Three and that the names and residences of those who are appointed for the first 3 years are

- o M. R. W. Park, Pres., Kingston, N. Mex.
- o Edw'd W. Carver, Sect'y, Kingston, N. Mex.
- o Jno. H. Jones, Treas., Kingston, N. Mex.
- o Mary J. Whitham, Director, Kingston, N. Mex.

Sixth: That the amount of capital stock of this Corporation shall be Twelve Thousand Dollars, divided into Sixty Shares of the par value of Two Hundred Dollars each.

Seventh: That the amount of said Capital Stock which has been actually subscribed is as follows, and subscribed by the following persons

Edward W. Carver	15 shares	\$3000.00
Jno. H. Jones	15 shares	\$3000.00
M. R. W. Park	15 shares	\$3000.00
M. J. Whitham	15 shares	\$3000.00

In Witness whereof We have hereunto set our hands and seals this Third day of April 1889.

Signed and sealed in the presence of:

Hiram McChristian
H. B. White
J. D. Whitham

Signatures and Seals:

M. R. W. Park
John H. Jones
E. W. Carver
M. J. Whitham

Territory of New Mexico
County of Sierra

Be it remembered that on this third day of April 1889, before me, a Notary Public, in and for the County and territory above named personally appeared Edward W. Carver, Jno. H. Jones, M. R. W. Park and M. J. Whitham..., well known to me as the persons who subscribed to the above and acknowledged that they had executed the Same, for the purposes therein stated.

In witness whereof I have herewith set my hand and affixed my official seal on the day and year last above written.

J. D. Whitham
Notary Public
Sierra Co, N. M.

[Notary Seal impressed here]

Filed at Santa Fe 8th day of July 1889. Shown by Certificate of B. M. Thomas, Sect'y of State on said date.

The road existing at the time between Kingston and Hillsboro cut out north from Middle Percha about a mile below Kingston and went over into Sawpit Canyon and then down on the north side of Starr Peak and back into Middle Percha just above the box in Middle Percha. The proposed toll road would significantly reduce distance and travel time.

From Kingston up to Percha Pass (Emory Pass) J.D. planned to follow closely the present

road over the Black Range with the exception that he planned to continue the main street of Kingston into the road that would go up Middle Percha into the foothills of the mountains and then make its way up to Percha Pass and connect in the same way the present road does without going down into Iron Creek and Gallinas Canyon.

About this time, October 10, 1889, J.D. located and claimed as homestead the Starr Ranch, stating that he had occupied and owned all the improved said grounds since and before June, 1885 except when being away on account of Indians and other causes.

J. D. spent a good many months working on the road between Kingston and Hillsboro that follows the Middle Percha. This was to be the first section of the toll road that would eventually go over the Black Range. Much of the work he did himself, as his health permitted, and other portions of the work he hired someone else to do.

Acting as spokesman for the Sierra Road Company petitioned the Board of Commissioners of Sierra County to establish rates of toll for the road now open for travel between Hillsboro and Kingston and running up the Middle Percha Creek:

Horse, Mule or Burro & Rider	\$.25
Horse, Mule & Burro & Buggy or other vehicle	.50
Double Horse or Mule Teams	1.00
Additional Pair of Mules or Horses	.25
Trail Wagons each	.50
One Yoke Oxen & Wagon	.50
Each Additional Yoke of Oxen	.50
Animals with Packs	.25
Loose Horses, Mules or Burros	.15
Loose Weak Cattle	.15
Sheep, etc.	.10

The toll road through the ranch never proved to be a very great financial success. It would appear that most of the people preferred to take the longer route of the county than go directly down Percha and pay the toll.

Summer floods continually washed out sections of the new toll road and J. D. spent most of his time keeping it in repair and working in the garden and orchard he had planted by the ranch house.

Also, during this time, in 1890 Congress passed the Sherman Silver Purchase Act, which limited the purchase of bullion by the U.S. government to something like four hundred and fifty million ounces annually. This had the effect of practically eliminating the marginally producing mines in the West, including Kingston. A united effort was made throughout the West to have the government

pass legislation allowing them to purchase sixteen ounces of silver for every ounce of gold purchased. Certainly this had a negative effect on the success of the toll road. In 1893-4 J.D.



Tollgate between Hillsboro and Kingston

The Toll Gate and Notice of Fares (on pole). The man, was "Dad" Steele from Kingston

wrote a play entitled "Sixteen to One" and he and his daughters, Xavia and Bronte had parts in it and it played rather successfully in many of the nearby towns including Hillsboro, Hot Springs (Truth or Consequences), Deming and Silver City. Mary Jane Whitham had the play copyrighted by the Library of Congress on May 25, 1894. I tried to request a copy of it from the Library of Congress and was informed that it had been "misplaced". I'm not sure that the copy left among J.D.'s things is the complete play or parts of it he was revising. How long the toll road stayed in operation is not known but I suspect it was no later than 1896 when the family moved to Denver where he lived and worked as a mining broker until his death in 1908. There are still some remnants of the Toll Road where it went up out of the creek to get around the narrow parts of the creek. One of the best is just east of the ranch on the north hillside of the creek just east of the ranch house. This is visible from the highway just east of the bridge.



Remnant of Toll Road east of ranch house on north side of Middle Percha Creek.

Other Neat Stuff

Patrick Richmond gave us some items he found while replacing the molding inside his house on Elenora Street. The letter accompanying the envelope is dated 1914. L. C. Latham, recipient of the letter, was Louis (Luch) Latham. He moved into Patrick's house in 1913, apparently just about in time for the big flood. It was known as the Stiles House at that time. Luch moved shortly to the Burke House, higher on the hill. This would be the big two-story now owned by Patsy King.



The Longrifle. By Susan Roebuck

The other day as I worked with rake and shovel at the Black Range Lodge in Kingston, I spotted a rusty object buried in clay, and saw that it was the striker/trigger mechanism from an old firearm. That evening, I took it home and began doing research. At first I thought it was a flintlock, but a Google Image search, using “flintlock” as the key word, dispelled that idea. After several clicks, something matched, and with a few more clicks, I learned that I had a percussion cap mechanism from a Civil War-era rifle.



“Cap and ball” rifles, also long-barreled like their flintlock cousins, the Kentucky long-rifles, began replacing flintlocks in the 1850’s. Using Google Image again, this time “percussion cap long-rifle” I noticed that the shape of the plate on which the firing mechanism is mounted differed among the images. These differences in plate shape were distinctive, so I began scrolling through scores of images, and, finally, the plate matched. What I had found was from a Sharps breech-loading long-rifle like those carried by Civil War soldiers.

Maybe it was carried in the Civil War; this being what was then Confederate Territory. But more likely it was used *after* the Civil War against Apaches, who for about twenty years, created havoc against the settlers.

Following Percha Creek to the place where it comes out of the mountains, travelers came to the boomtown of silver-rich Kingston. Men prospected Percha Creek and its brushy arroyos, canyon walls, and ridges for the next big strike. Wagon loads of high-grade silver ore came out of the mines. New arrivals heard hammers as they rode into town and saw burros hauling wood to stoke the smelter and pretty girls dressed in velvet stood on balconies.

The Apaches’ life was utterly different. Nomadic hunters and gatherers, they ranged far into Mexico, Arizona, New Mexico and even

parts of Texas—over many thousands of acres. They lived on the harsh mountain and plateau deserts; Their “map” was memory of places that helped sustain life. They traveled from water to water. At this spot, where Percha Creek flows over solid rock, they rested and watched their children play on a lazy summer days—until a prospector came and found silver.

Then Buffalo Soldiers carrying Sharps long-rifles were sent to patrol the Black Range and fight. The Apaches became increasingly fierce and desperate.

A rifle left to lie on the hillside doesn’t just happen. People don’t accidentally forget rifles somewhere, and certainly not in 1880. If they did, they’d turn and start the long walk back to where they left it. What is interesting is that three months earlier, while excavating with the backhoe, Gary found a beautiful stone ax head in the very same spot where I found the rifle part. Indians didn’t just toss away their axe heads. So about 140 years ago, a longrifle and a stone axe lay under a litter of fallen autumn leaves. Was it the same year? Perhaps on that day, buffalo soldiers were engaged with Apache warriors, in a furious clash, one of the last to send out its echoes through history. Battlers skirmished through trees, the woods echoed with desperate shouting, horrible grunts, nerve-wracking shrieks, terrified horses crashing through the timber. An Apache warrior swung his axe to place a killing blow. In the instant it embeds, he is killed by rifle fire from behind. The shooter rides up, sees that he was too late to save his friend. For a moment alone and unprotected, he spurs his horse to the sound of battle farther up the creek, his own rifle clutched to his side.

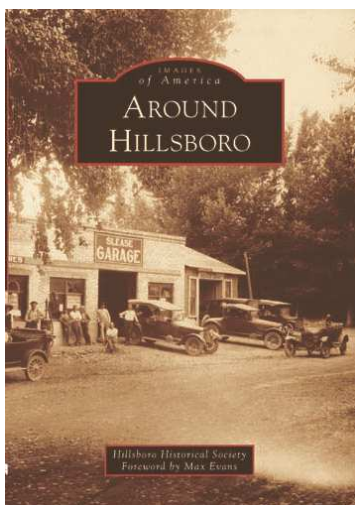
I wonder if it was autumn, with winter coming on, the two men lying dead on a hillside, golden leaves barely clinging to the cottonwoods, only waiting for the slightest breeze. Just like today, there would have been bird-song in the trees, the creek running cold, bears foraging for last meals before their winter den.



Sharps Rifle

FOR SALE

Books and Newsletters:



\$21.99 plus postage.

**Newsletter volumes 1 to 5 on CD:
17 newsletters. \$10.00 postage paid.**

Hillsboro Historical Society.
P. O. Box 461.
Hillsboro NM 88042

Articles in HHS newsletter volumes 1-5:

Vol. 1, No. 1: Emmett Faulkner obit. Dove histories by Harley Shaw.
Vol. 2. No. 1: Eastern Star women in 1914 Flood. From the archives.
Vol. 2. No. 2: CC Crews and Luna B. Leopold Flood Article.
Vol. 2. No. 3: Legacy of Chavez clan by Stretch Luna and Javelina history by Harley Shaw.
Vol. 2, No. 4: Hillsboro High School. Patricia Sze.
Vol. 3, No. 1: Two women sentenced to death. 1972 Flood. From the archives
Vol. 3, No. 2: Miscellanea of historical information. Significant dates. Stretch Luna.
Vol. 3, No. 3: List of Hillsboro Business, 1912-1913. Delia Crafton. Notes on wildlife history. Stageline. From the archives.
Vol. 3, No. 4: The Lake Valley Range War.
Vol. 4, No. 1: Judge Frank Wilson Parker, Frontier Lawyer, Political Warrior.
Vol. 4, No. 2: Stormy Night: Bobbi Ostler—personal memories of 1972 flood. Also book report on *Tempest over Teapot Dome*.
Vol. 4, No. 3: Soda bottling in the Black

Range.

Vol. 4. No. 4: Life on North Percha through three generations. Mary Reid and Bobbi Ostler.

Vol. 5. No. 1: Diary of the Hunt. Edward Tittmann.

Vol. 5. No. 2: New Mexico Constitutional Convention. Recollections by Edward Tittmann.

Vol. 5. No. 3: First Grade. Attending school from North Percha. Bobbi Ostler.

Vol. 5. No. 4: Letter from Ida Beals. 1889.

PROGRAMS

Francisco Bojorquez

On April 13, 2013, archaeologist and historian Karl Laumbach will be giving a presentation in Hillsboro on cowboy and lawman Francisco Bojorquez. This will take place at 3PM at the Hillsboro Community Center. Please put this on your calendar. Bojorquez was considered the most skilled cowhand that ever worked in Sierra County, if not the entire state of New Mexico. Lonnie Rubio and family are descendants of Francisco.

INTERESTING LINKS

<http://hillsborohistory.blogspot.com/>.

Hillsboro blog maintained by Craig Springer. Lots of good stories about our area.

http://www.blackrange.org/The_Black_Range_Rag/The_Black_Range_Rag.html.

Created by Robert Barnes. Now back online with a lot of new information. Good for both local history and natural history. And lots of links to other sites.

<http://www.hillsboronm.com/>. Community organizations and functions around Hillsboro and Kingston.

<http://www.blackrangelodge.com/>. Historic bed and breakfast with accommodations in the pines.

<http://barbershopcafe.com/>. Check ahead for hours and menu.

<http://www.blackrangevineyards.com/>.

Currently in Mesilla, New Mexico. Soon to open in Hillsboro.

<http://www.aldosattic.com/>. Fine bird prints and literature of nature.

MEMBERSHIP

The Hillsboro Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to collect, preserve and share the history and historical artifacts of the Hillsboro, Kingston and Lake Valley communities in New Mexico. Its membership comprises supporters and volunteers who may choose to participate in many aspects of the Society's mission including fundraising, collection and conservation, oral histories, education and interpretation, special events and programs. Member benefits include the Historical Society quarterly newsletter, priority registration for lectures, summer programs and field trips, and an invitation to our Annual Dinner and Silent Auction.

We welcome your support and membership. Dues are \$25 annually for individual or family and \$50 for business memberships. Please mail this completed Membership Subscription, along with your check made payable to Hillsboro Historical Society, P. O. Box 461, Hillsboro NM 88042.

Member Name _____ Today's Date _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone Number (_____) _____ Email _____

Volunteer interest _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ annual (from Feb to Feb) individual or family membership

Enclosed is \$ _____ annual (from Feb to Feb) business membership that includes ad in newsletter

Additional Donation \$ _____ Gift Membership \$ _____ for _____

Newsletter sent (check one): Digital by email Hard copy mailed

For the present, we will continue to send the digital newsletter to everyone who is on our mailing list and will add new members to that list as they join. If we have no email address for members, we will mail them a hard copy of the newsletter. Any members receiving digital copies that would prefer to receive a hard copy can email me at hgshaw@windstream.net, and I will add you to our postal mailing list.