



GUAJALOTES, ZOPILOTES, Y PAISANOS

Newsletter of the Hillsboro Historical Society

**November, 2012
Volume 5 Number 4**

Editor: Harley Shaw

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ACTIVITIES

Membership

As of November 6, 2012, we have 14 family memberships, 25 individual members, and two business memberships. This totals 58 people belonging to HHS. We have contacted a printer regarding membership cards and have updated our bylaws to reflect that we are now a membership organization. The printer has been slow to respond on cards and this editor has admittedly forgotten to do a follow-up. That is presently being corrected due to a recent reminder from the membership chairman. Memberships last from February to February.

Elections

Three board members will be up for re-election at our February meeting. All three current board members have expressed a willingness to continue on the board. In view of increasing community interest and membership in the HHS, the board is considering adding two additional positions to the board. This will be discussed at the December board meeting. It may require a change in bylaws, if we decide to pursue it.

Events-fundraising

We had no fundraising event during the quarter. HHS will have a booth at Christmas in the Foothills on December 1, 2012. We will be selling copies of *Around Hillsboro* and soliciting new members. Also a few items left over from the Kingston Centennial. We would welcome help from the general membership in designing and setting up the , as well as working on the booth at the event.

Sonja Rutledge is trying to revive the Fountain Trial Play. Several members of the community have expressed interest in participating. We hope that it can come together in 2013.

Jamie Lee is designing a brochure that will list donated items to be sold through his personal online business. These will mainly be antiques or art pieces worth at least \$100. 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. This will not be an auction, and pieces will have set prices established by the donors by Jamie. This will be an ongoing process, with new items to be sold 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 jamieleeahawaii@gmail.com.

Black Range Museum

We continue to be interested in the Black Range Museum, and Sonja is working with owner June Anders. June is interested in having a small committee from our board do an inventory of the museum holdings sometime after January 1. With this in mind, Harley has been exploring museum software in search of a program that is user friendly and appropriate for a small museum. Patsy McCann and John Tittmann of Albuquerque are currently working on a database for recording the collection of John's grandfather, Edward Tittmann. Edward Tittmann has appeared in earlier newsletters. Patsy's database might be appropriate for the Black Range Museum holdings as well. Harley is also in touch with Carol Robinson of Geronimo Springs Museum, who is evaluating software for their archives.

Peltier Paintings. Monica Donovan of the Leonard Peltier Gallery called to tell us that a major concert/event supporting Peltier is planned in New York City. They had initially intended to have this event, featuring folk musician, Pete Seeger, in mid-December. However hurricane Sandy interrupted their plans, and they are having to regroup. They hope to feature our painting *Keeper of the Woods* for their poster advertising the event, thereby providing exposure to a large number of potential buyers. We will keep you posted as this develops.

Lomahaftewa and Granados paintings.

Jamie had these paintings evaluated, and he plans to contact Heritage Auction House in Dallas to see if they might handle them for us. If not, he will attempt to sell them through his online business or at one of the antiquities shows he attends. In the meantime, if anyone

wants more information on these or on the Pel-tier paintings, please contact Harley at 575-895-5385 (email, hgshaw@windstream.net) or Jamie at the phone number or address given above.

Fire Truck

Larry reports that he is finally ready to move the fire truck into his shop. He says the brakes don't work and he will need help stopping it, once he gets it moving—a couple of people who are quick at strategic placement of blocks to avoid an unwanted exit out the back wall of his new building.

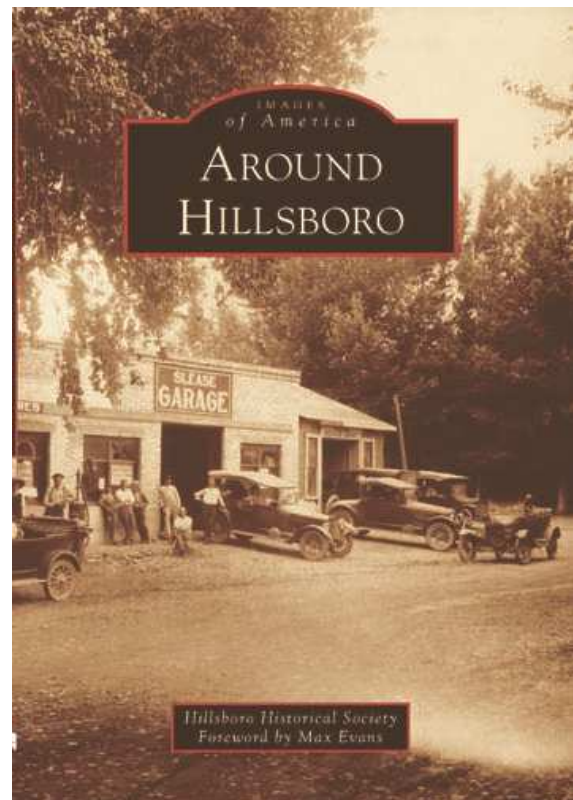
EDITOR'S REPORT: NEWS AND COMMENTS

We continue to receive requests for back issues of this newsletter. In the past, I have tried to email back issues to anyone who requested them and to copy and mail hard copies to individuals who do not have email. However, this issue represents completion of four years plus one issue of publication—17 issues total. As a result, the files require too much time to send by email. I will henceforth send a cd with copies of Volumes one (one issue only) to four (four issues each) to anyone requesting them for the price of \$10, proceeds of which will go to Hillsboro Historical Society. If anyone wants hard copies of back issues, the cost will have to be greater. We haven't figured that out yet. Printing back issues becomes time-consuming and expensive in terms of paper, computer/copier ink, and time. To date, this has all been done on my personal printer and copier, but I'm probably going to have to work out another process. I'm about to the point that I could use the help of a volunteer in producing and distributing the newsletter. Anyone who might be interested in working with me, let me know.

We are beginning to generate enough comment and communication from people reading the newsletter that I will with this issue, to begin to include some of our mail (mostly email). I'm gratified that people are reading our small missile, and hope its distribution grows. Of course, in addition to letters, we are always interested in stories and family histories from readers. Again and again, I receive stories from readers that I find entertaining, often funny. More often than not, the person sending them apologizes, saying they are not a "writer." People too often are self-conscious of their writing. Nonetheless most of the stories are

best published in the form we receive them. If they truly need help, I'm willing to work with the writer to make them usable.

As a reminder: We still have copies of *Around Hillsboro*. Cost of these is \$22 plus \$4.00 P&H, and they can be ordered from Hillsboro Historical Society, P. O. Box 461, Hillsboro NM 88042 or from Matti (currycomb@windstream.net). These will make excellent Christmas presents, so get your order in now. You can also order copies via Amazon.com or other online book services, as well as directly from Arcadia Books: <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/#>.



LOCAL HISTORY

In keeping with our effort to present "life the way it was, our feature story this time is a letter written to the folks back home, some 123 years ago, by Ida Beals, great-grandmother of our board members Patti Nunn and Matti (Nunn) Harrison. Ida Ann Morrish was born in Flint, Genesee Co., Michigan. She was the daughter of William Morrish, a farmer in Clayton Township, and his wife Caroline Eliza Calkins. Caroline died in 1867 when Ida was only nine. William married Rachel Fletcher a year and a half later in 1868. Rachel died in 1879 when Ida was twenty-one; her father died a year later. Ida

had three younger brothers, Wilbert, Sidney, and John, and one younger sister, Dimis. Ida graduated from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor with a teaching degree.

Ida met Dr. Guy Beals in Michigan and the family story is that he sent for Ida when he got to New Mexico. She came out west (probably by train to Lake Valley) and they were married. When they first married, they lived for a short time in Hillsborough. Guy worked in the mines and also served as the doctor for the area. For a time they lived out north of Hillsboro at one of the placer mines called the El Oro. Their daughter, Pattie was born in a tent at the El Oro mine on Oct. 31 1889.

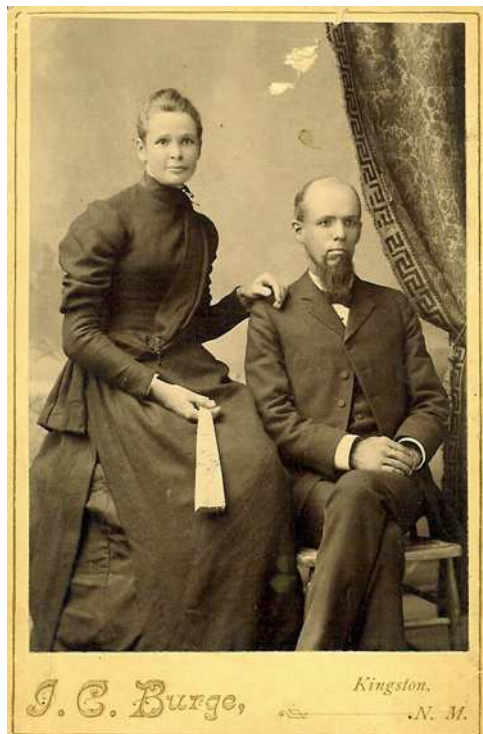
The following letter from Hillsborough on July 17, 1889 indicates what life was like in Hillsborough in 1889:

Hillsborough, N.M.

July 17, 1889 A.M.

Dear ones at home,

I am seated on the shady side of the house, there is a nice breeze from the north and I am quite comfortable. Guy is helping Mr. Odell and will finish this week, then he will go to work for Mr. Crane again. He only weighs 140 ½ lbs. but says he feels well, has a good appetite and does not work at mining more than half the time. I suspect the lack of fresh meat and



Ida and Dr. Guy Beals

the hot weather have something to do with it. The thermometer has been above 100 but it seems no hotter here than it does in Mich., it is not hot and then cold as there but just bout so right along. It clouds over and sprinkles occasionally but has only really rained twice. The first time between two and three ft. of water came rushing down the gully 10 to 15ft. from the house. Had it been a little deeper it would have overflowed and make it rather unpleasant for us. When it threatens rain all the vermin start for the house. We have killed 3 tarantulas; 2 centipedes, one found in the bread box, another in the gun barrel and a third which escaped, in the bed and two “children of the earth” as the English rendition of the Spanish goes, the most poisonous of them all. The last named centipede was not very conducive to slumber for a night or two, but otherwise I have not minded the possibilities which seem formidable enough to you. There is a beast of some sort which lives under the house and amuses itself night and day by playing a rat-tat-tat on the floor, there are any quantity of swifts and ants, a rattlesnake between here and the adobe, and bulls galore as the newspaper would say but then they are all nothing if you consider them so. We expect Mr. Crane and Harry this week, they have been coming ever since the 1st of April and they may fail to connect yet. He has a ranch at Cruces on which he has just finished a little adobe to store his things in and he has cut two crops of alfalfa. He like us has been waiting to learn about the Las Cruces position before doing anything definite and like us he is at last compelled to plan without reference to it. The Receiver has been appointed and it is possible we may hear soon who is to be Register. My faith is not overpowering. I presume Guy has no better backing than the half dozen other candidates and six of the seven must get “left.” But then I will not croak, I should be glad enough if we could go to Cruces.

--Thursday morning--

It is hot this morning, 9 A.M. I am writing in the same place. We received mother's letter Monday and were just beginning to think we should have to write anyway or get a scolding. Guy has been having quite a run of practice the last week. Last Friday night he was called to see Mr. Clark, our new neighbor, whom he had given nux to take. Mr. C. said he had been feeling rather “queer” for a week or so and immediately after the first dose he was taken with vomiting, diarrhea and fever. Of course he thought it was the medicine, he is getting around all right now. He is an epileptic and

inveterate smoker in the bargain, even smoking when sick in bed. The rest of the family consists of Mrs. C. and 8 children, the oldest of which, a girl, is married and lives in Lincoln Co. The oldest one at home is a boy 17 or 18 and the youngest a girl of two yrs. They are southerners born and bred, say "mought" for might, "mighty" for very, "that-a-way" for that way, etc. Mrs. C. dips snuff. They are a pretty good sort of people, poor but "rustlers" from the biggest to the littlest, except Mr. C. whom Guy calls lazy but I will not listen to it, I don't think he is lazy any more than I am. He is a preacher but does not preach now. They have built them a two-room frame house between here and Mr. Watkins' and have a pretty good mine there. First they brought the little girl for Guy to give her something for map tongue, then Mr. C. thought he wanted some medicine, and last night they sent for Guy to go and see Mrs. C. who may or may not be quite sick. We expect no money in pay, but are getting what is as good as money, fresh milk. We have paid over \$3.00 a month for condensed milk and I am tired of it. They have a team, too, and can do us service with that. Then Monday Guy was over in town and Mrs. Opgenorth, the woman who keeps the hotel, attempted suicide by taking morphine. Dr. Givens, the Hillsboro allopath, was away, and so Guy went over and stayed with her an hour until Dr. G. Came back. We had quite a scare over one of Mr. Crane's horses a week ago. Guy went after them and could only find Major. As the other, George, is a great home horse and never leaves "Maje" the inference immediately was the he was stolen. Guy hunted for him several days but with no success. At length he heard there was a white horse on the Hermosa road but could not find him. Saturday when coming home from Hillsboro he ran on George quite by accident who was also making his way slowly home. He had lost two shoes and was lame, and had a saddle mark across his back. Probably somebody had a journey to make, caught George, rode him until he got lame and then turned him loose, that is the way they do down here. One of Mr. Watkins' horses has been gone for three months and he has a last heard of her in the mts. from one to two hundred miles away.

--Saturday - 11:30 A.M.—I have just read Guy's sheet and think it does not take a very large hole for him to crawl out of, next time I won't write a word. He is going to town this afternoon, he and Mr. Odell. I want over yesterday where they were at work and ate dinner



Carl and Guy Beals. Guys wife Ida, Guy's and Carl's aunt Julia Wells Beals, and Carl's two children.

with them. They were both down in the hole drilling when I got there and visiting away like two old women. I sat down at a discreet distance lest I should hear the scandal they were probably rolling under their tongues. Guy has been wanting to know for 2 hours if it wasn't pretty near lunch time and I suppose I will have to stop and feed him. We are luxuriating in new onions, apples and potatoes, the latter of which we have had for a month. Onions are 4cts. a lb., apples 3 for 5cts. This year's 1st crop of rabbits is about half grown and make delicious eating. They are so thick Carl could find a rabbit and not half try if he were here now. Guy says he has told you before of the college at Cruces, I had thought if we went there we might be able to get Jessie a place. It is one of those schools whose principal hold on the pupils is in the money they pay, and I imagine the teachers' lot is not always pleasant. There is no High School there. I need not tell you how glad I am you will make the things for me, I had planned to buy most of them ready-made of Montgomery Ward & Co to whom we are going to send a miscellaneous order shortly. Sewing is slow work, after several months I have finished the wrapper the cloth for which I bought in Flint. We can get the Watkins' sewing machine for two or three weeks when we want it and when Dimie comes, I guess I shall have to set her to work with it. The Copper King folks from Milwaukee have been here at last, left for home on Wednesday. The party consisted of Mr. Hoffmann, Mr. Myers and a son of Mr. H. Will Mrs. Hotchkiss go to Europe with her husband? It is a fine opportunity for him. The men are ready to go and I must stop.
Ida.

CORRESPONDENCE

We recently received the following letter from Joe Whitham, great-grandson of J. D. Whitham, an early Hillsboro settler. Joe has copies of his great-grandfather's diary, and he has compiled a Whitham family history based upon these diaries and other family lore. We hope to have a more detailed account of the role of the Whitham family and of the toll road in a future edition of this newsletter.

Harley,

Thanks for the information. I understand your situation with emailing such large files as each newsletter must be. The CD is a good solution. I'll get back with you in November/December about ordering them.

I'd like to give you some of my history with respect to Hillsboro and Kingston. My great Grandfather, J. D. Whitham came to the area from West Virginia sometime after the Civil War and did some prospecting as so many did then. Being an engineer he also surveyed many claims in the area.

In the early 1880's he went back to West Virginia and married Mary Jane Murray and brought his new bride with him back to Kingston/Hillsboro. They homesteaded a ranch midway between Kingston and Hillsboro. He had three children: Datemus, Bronte, Xavia (he was fond of the Greek authors and I guess this is where he got those names). The two sisters never married and the son, Datemus (or D. B.) Married a Lucy Dowe (my grandmother).

J. D. built a toll road up Percha Creek as a shorter route than the older route that went north from Hillsboro and west back into Kingston. He had a toll gate in front of the ranch house with the fares posted. Parts of this toll road are still visible from the current highway. J. D. was Editor of the Kingston Shaft for a while. After that he was "Judge" (what we'd call Justice of the Peace nowadays, I think) in Hillsboro. He died in Colorado right after the turn of the century and I haven't been able to determine where he's buried.

His son, D. B. and Lucy had one son, Latham in 1905, who was raised on the ranch and attended Hillsboro schools through grade school and then went to Las Cruces for prep school and graduated from New Mexico A & M about 1928. He worked for what was then Chino Mine in Santa Rita and Hurley.

Latham married Delma Poindexter from Silver City. These are my parents.

Lucy sold the ranch around 1950 and moved to Silver City where Dad could take care of her. Jimmy Bason currently owns the original ranch.

Mary Jane, Datemus, Bronte and Xavia are buried in Hillsboro Cemetery. Lucy, Latham, and Delma are buried in Silver City. My wife, Barbara and I live in Dallas, Texas now but try to get back at least every other year to New Mexico. I remember almost every year Dad would take my brother and I and cross the Black Range on Memorial Day to take care of the graves at Hillsboro.

I'm just rattling on but I hope I may have something to offer HHS.

Thanks,
Joe Whitham
Dallas, Texas

Mark Thompson, the great-grandson of Nicholas Galles. Mark has contributed to our on-line blog that Craig Springer maintains (<http://hillsborohistory.blogspot.com/>). We can only hope that other members, regardless of their point of view, are as interested in Hillsboro history as Mark has been.

Craig & Harley: Some personal observations from my safe, "undisclosed location" in Colorado. I don't want to pretend to have lots of answers for Hillsboro "history buffs" but it does look like we are, not surprisingly, at some sort of crossroad. I have yet to see strong evidence that Hillsboro is in a position to "go big" on promoting its unique history. As Harley knows, I had questioned why so much effort was being put into the purchase of the foundation remains of what was, yes, a pretty unique looking courthouse which should not have been torn down. But how many people would make a special trip off of I-25 to come look at ruins of a late 19th C. building? Even when I spent a couple of days in Silver City around the turn of the century, my spouse was at a meeting, I did not wander around Hillsboro--I went out to look at the Gila cliff dwellings. And I was the only "tourist" there on a nice Fall day!

Last month we took a day trip down to Cripple Creek, which takes a similar effort off the beaten path, just because I had never been there. They have a new, large museum, which we stopped at mostly because it was on the way into town. It was what you might expect; heavy duty on the mining industry of the Colorado of the 1880s. But how could they afford such a great building and not even charge an admission fee? Well, for one thing, you can, for a fee,

visit a nearby working mine and I suspect they get some money from the miners. But the real money is from the casinos drawing the "gamblers" to Cripple Creek. And if you have not been there, or even to Leadville, they put Hillsboro to shame when it comes to 19th C. architecture. Why? They found a lot more gold and silver in Colorado. (I personally think the casinos have ruined downtown Cripple Creek and wished later that I had taken the time to go over to a nearby old mining town.)

Craig's point about people turning out for a Pancho Villa story telling exposes part of the modern problem. Many history tourists just want to be entertained. Although there is a lot of "nuance" in the Pancho Villa or Billy the Kid stories, that is not what most people would find interesting and may even be difficult to present in a single public lecture. If the present CJ[Chief Justice] of NM was coming to town to talk about how Judge Parker got run over by A.B. Fall in the Oliver Lee trial, and then again when my ancestor at best "botched" the Wayne Brazil prosecution in Judge Parker's courtroom, also possibly orchestrated by A.B. Fall, or how Judge Parker with the help of the "Railroad" (read "Republican") lawyers controlled the judiciary debate at the 1910 Con Con [Constitutional convention], you might get some history tourists to attend a lecture. But even if a sitting C.J. would undertake such a lecture, and he probably wouldn't, that would turn off

those who expect the promotion of our "heritage," not a lecture which shows that even our heroes are "flawed."

Colorado opened its new history museum this year. My grandchildren are still too young, and I have not yet been there, but I was amused at the criticism leveled by one citizen in a letter to the Denver Post. How dare you have an exhibit about the WWII Japanese internment camp? How dare you have an exhibit about the Sand Creek Massacre? How depressing! That is not celebrating our wonderful Colorado heritage!

Which road to take? I think the folks who want to see a "business plan" are correct. What is the unique Hillsboro product? (entertainment? heritage? the elusive unvarnished history? a marvelous and unique special blend of all three?) How much would it cost to deliver that product at various, alternative levels? What is the market for that product? Can we sell enough to at least break even on our current expenses and debt service and have something remaining for future efforts?

Mark B. Thompson III

DON'T FORGET CHRISTMAS IN THE FOOTHILLS. DECEMBER 1, 2012 AT THE HILLSBORO COMMUNITY CENTER. HILLSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL HAVE A BOOTH AND WILL BE SELLING COPIES OF *AROUND HILLSBORO*, AS WELL AS A FEW ITEMS LEFT OVER FROM THE KINGSTON CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. WE'LL ALSO BE HAPPY TO TAKE YOUR MONEY FOR MEMBERSHIP. IF YOU JOIN IN DECEMBER, YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL LAST THROUGH FEBRUARY, 1914.

Membership Subscription

The Hillsboro Historical Society is a non-profit 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, museum establishment, special events and programs, administration, and other related opportunities. 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, to the above address.

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

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

Newsletter sent (check one): Digital by email

Hard copy mailed

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