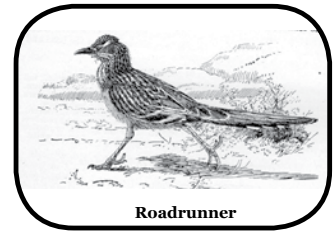


Guajalotes, Zopilotes, y Paisanos



Hillsboro Historical Society

August 2014. Volume 7 Number 3



Feature Article: Guns of Hillsboro--what the well dressed gentleman was totin' in the 1890s

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From the President

I would like to take this opportunity to say **Thank You** to our Board and express my appreciation to each of them for the contribution that they make. We are fortunate to have three new members- Steve Dobrott, Robin Tuttle and Steve Elam. Harley resigned but will continue to do our Newsletter, which is a huge undertaking. He does it so well and he will be on our advisory Board. We don't want to lose his wisdom, and expertise in so many things. Thank you Harley!

We now have eleven members on the Board and they are doing a great job! We also have new volunteers that are a big help. Janie Dobrott has agreed to "freshen up" our displays in the shop--looks great--and Janie will serve on our Education Exhibit Committee. Sandy Ficklin, Inga McCord and Bert Walters are now working in the shop. Thank you Ladies!

I just want to say Thanks to everyone for your contribution, we have a lot of things we want to do. They say it takes a team and we have a great one. Take care.

Sonja

Cover photo: We've been unable to determine where this gun rack was displayed. It was in one of the finer homes in town and the owner obviously wanted the best arms available in his day (1890s). The double-barrelled shotgun on top may be a Colt hammerless, one of the first hammerless shotguns to be manufactured. The lever action rifle is a Winchester 1886, and the large cartridges in the gun belt undoubtedly fit it. This was one of the most powerful rifles of its day. The single shot rifle at the bottom is a Stevens Favorite which was available in small calibers for small game. The handgun in the holster is a Colt single-action, the cowboy standby of its time. The other handgun may be an early Colt double action revolver.

News, Comments, Activities

Hillsboro Historical Society is changing and growing rapidly. One of the biggest changes lies in the increasing involvement of non-board members in our activities. Janie Dobrott has taken a special interest in our store and educational center displays, applying her very special artistic abilities. The result is an amazing renovation of the educational center, not the least of which is the “rug” painted on the floor of the main display room. Janie designed this, and Jan Haley, Melody Sears, Judy Majoras, and Becky Porter did the painting. Janie has also been working closely with Barbara Lovell, improving presentation of items in the store. At present, the Ladder Ranch history display is still showing.

The Ladder Ranch Tour was a GREAT success. Thirty-six reservations and only ONE person a no show!! Lunches cost \$67; and we made over \$1000!! Steve did a GREAT job and buffalo were seen, together with a new-born calf (probably just a few hours old)!

Plans and rehearsal for the Fountain Play reenactment are on track. This will once again to be held during the Labor Day weekend. A more detailed announcement is provided below. Here, too, more and more members at large are taking on tasks. Catherine Wanek, Gary Harvell, and Jan Haley are handling publicity for the event this year. Gary Gritzbaugh is providing sets as needed, and Sherry Hartman is supervising costumes. Richard Spellman is handling the sound system. Most of last year’s cast is attending rehearsals.

We continued having fascinating and unique programs. A highlight was the discussion of Apache leaders and their warfare strategies given by Dr. Robert Watt of the University of Birmingham, England. Dr. Watt is a lecturer at the University of Birmingham where he teaches a course on the Indian Wars for the History Department. He wrote *Apache Tactics 1860-86*, as well as a number of articles for American history journals on both the Apaches and their campaigns throughout the 19th century. He has travelled widely throughout Arizona and Mexico researching the subject. The Black Range Vineyards hosted the event, which was well attended. Dr. Watts lively and humorous presentation was delivered in a Scottish brogue seldom heard in New Mexico. Steve Dobrott will help to continue the series of fine “know your neighbors” presentations on August 16 at the Black Range Vinyards, when he talks about the history of the Ladder Ranch.

We are nearly out of the walking tour brochures and need badly to update and reprint that publication.

Barbara Lovell is moving ahead on plans for an antique show in Hillsboro during 2015.

The old fire truck is now running, hence movable. A lot of work remains, especially transferring fire fighting hardware from the parts truck to the Hillsboro/Hot Springs truck. Harley hopes to form a group of volunteers to move this project forward.

HHS Business

Harley Shaw resigned his board position but plans to focus full attention on the newsletter and help with the firetruck. We are badly needing a group of wrench turners to finish up transfer of the fire fighting equipment from the parts truck to the original Hillsboro fire truck. The truck is currently sitting on Harley and Patty’s property at the west end of Elenora Street.

Steve Dobrott stepped into Harley’s slot. Due to the increasing interest in our group, our board has been expanded from 9 to 11 members, with Robin Tuttle coming back on board and Steve Elam elected as a new member.

Between tours, memberships, donations, and sales at our shop, HHS continues to operate in the black. This is an amazing accomplishment for a small organization in a small town and speaks well for the dedication of the people helping us along.

Anyone planning to attend HHS board meetings should be aware that meetings have been changed to the second Tuesday of each month. 6:30 pm. Hillsboro Community Center.

GUNS OF HILLSBORO—what the well-dressed gentleman was totin' in the 1890s

Harley Shaw

A few months back, Jim and Eric Thomas wielded their metal detectors around of the old baseball diamond on the mesa south of town. Baseball in Hillsboro has a history of its own, and I'm hoping someone will eventually research it and send us an article. For now, however, I want to write about the can-full of old cartridges that Jim and Eric found. Its contents gave a glimpse into another interesting aspect of Hillsboro history.



Baseball on the mesa. The area may have been used as a shooting range before it became a baseball field. Inset: A partial array of cartridges found on the ballfield site.

I don't know for sure why so many old cartridges turned up at this site. One could speculate on a battle with Apaches, but no written history mentions such an occurrence. Odds are its just a place locals went to practice. Let's hope, at least, that all this brass wasn't deposited while ball games were in progress. Fielding grounders on that rocky surface had to be tough enough without dodging bullets from opposing fans. But times *were* rough.

Assume, though, that it was just a popular spot to go and test "Old Betsy." Seemingly not many people reloaded in those days, so the spent cartridges were ejected and left. Shooters commonly stomped on a spent cartridge to assure that it wouldn't be reused by opponents—in this case scavenging Apaches. I doubt that the word "litter" had been invented.

Based upon the array of calibers found and the head stamps or lack thereof, I'm guessing that most of the shooting occurred shortly after the town was founded, probably preceding the ball field. I've identified the old cartridges that Jim left to the best of my ability, using *Cartridges of the World* by Frank C. Barnes. I'm no expert on the subject, but I've always been interested in old guns. Unlike the hyper-magnums and assault weapons that fuel the imagination of so many modern shooters, those older guns were tools, mainly used to provide meat for the table. However, any anxiety regarding needing to use a weapon for self-defense was based upon reality. Until almost 1900, the potential of confronting hostile Apaches remained, and one might encounter whites who weren't particularly trustworthy as well. Soldiers and lawmen were scarce, so you were usually on your own if you blundered into trouble.

If you watched many westerns, you'll conclude that 1800s cowboys, miners, etc. carried nothing but lever action Winchesters and single-action Colts--amazing guns that would shoot indefinitely without reloading. However, if you scrutinize paintings by Russell or Remington, or look closely at old photos, you'll discover quite an array of weapons in the hands of citizens. The cartridges found on the mesa reflect this diversity. I list the cartridges and the type of rifles that they might fit in the table below.

Cartridges from the old baseball diamond area south of Hillsboro and rifle in which they might have been shot

Caliber	No. Cases	Headstamp	Approximate first year issued/gun model	Comments
50 Gov.	6	None	1866/Springfield trapdoor musket	
45-70	7	None	1873/Various	wSee text
45-70	6	Military	"	"
45-70	4	Commercial	"	"
45-60	4	Commercial	1879/1876 Winchester; 1886 Winchester; Kennedy lever action; Colt Lightening	
45-75?	1	None	1876/1876 Winchester	
45 Long Colt	8	None	1873/Various	Still available
45 Long Colt	1	Remington UMC. 45 Colt	1873/Various	"
44 Long	1	H in center of head	Begore 1866/Henry Rifle	Rimfire
44 WCF (44-40)	1	UMC 44 WCF	1873/1873 Winchester. Colt Lightening. Winchester 1892. Remington 14.5. Colt revolvers.	Still available
44 S&W Russian	1	UMC 44 S&W R	1870/S&W Russian Revolver; Colt single action revolvers	
44 Colt	1	None	1871/1860 Colt Army Revolver; 1875 Remington Army revolver	
44 S&W or 41 Long Colt	4	None	1869/Depending upon which caliber it is, S&W Model 3; Merwin Helbert Army Revolver. Various Colt single and double action revolvers.	Cartridge is crushed and difficult to identify for certain
40-82 WCF	1	WRA Co. 40-82 WCF	1885/Winchester single-shot and 1896	
40-82 WCF	2	WRA Co. 40-82 WCF	1885/Winchester single-shot and 1896	
40-60	1	U.M.C. S H 40-60	1876/1876 Win. 1886 Win. Kennedy lever action. Colt Lightening.	
40-65	1	WRA Co. 40-65 W C F.	1887/1886 Win. Win S. S. Marlin 1895	
40-110 Win.	1	W. R. A. Co. 40 EXP	1886/Winchester single-shot	
40-70	8	None	1879. Probably 40-70 Sharps.	
Unknown 41	3	None	Unknown handgun	
Unknown 41	3	None	Unknown handgun	
38 WCF (38-40)	1	WRA Co. 38 WCF	1874/1873 Win. 1876 Win. Win. 1892, 1894. Rem. 14.5, Colt Revolvers.	
38-55 WCF	2	None	1884/Ballard SS.; Marlin 1893 and Winchester 1894;	
38-55 WCF	1	W-W 38-55 Win.	"	
38 S&W	3	None	1877/Various handguns	
32 Short Colt or S&W	3	None	1878/Various S&W and Colt revolvers	
Unknown 32.	1	None	Unknown handgun	
30-30 Win	1	Peters 30-30	1895/Many brands and models Still available	Smokeless powder made after 1900.
303 Savage	1	REM-UMC 303 Sav.	1895/ 1899 Savage rifle	"

A full commentary on each of the cartridges and guns that shot them would turn this article into a book; the table raises more questions than it answers. Almost one-quarter of the cartridges found were military issue. These include the one eight 50-Government cartridges and several 45-70 cartridges with no head stamps or military stamps. Perhaps these were ejected during friendly competition between civilians and soldiers from Camp Boyd, or, maybe they were surplus cartridges made available legally or otherwise to civilians. There seems to be no reason to suspect that the ball diamond area served as a military shooting range. If the soldiers from Camp French (1880) or Camp Boyd (1885-86) had regular practice, it probably happened nearer their camps. I'm not sure where Camp French, a Buffalo Soldier detail, was located. Camp Boyd was on North Percha near the present



**Living room of the George Miller house about 1900.
Rifle leaning against the fireplace is a Sharps**

Cunningham Pitchfork Ranch headquarters. Commercial 45-70s were most likely shot by local citizens using single-shot rifles or more modern lever actions.

The more interesting cartridges found include a 40-110 Winchester Express and eight 40-70 cartridges. These large cartridges could fall into the classification of “buffalo guns,” and were designed for shooting larger game such as elk and bison at long range. Gun companies developed an array of 40-70 cartridges like these during the heyday of experimentation in the late 1800s. Some of these could be used interchangeably, even though they sold under different brands. Those found on the mesa are exactly 2.5 inches in length, suggesting that they were intended for the Sharps rifle. The Sharps cartridge was known as 40-70 Sharps 2.5”. A photo taken inside the Miller house shows a Sharps leaning near the fire place, and a receipt from the Black Range Museum collection records a 1898 transfer of 19 used Sharps rifles from George Miller to Nicholas Galles, with Willard Hopewell delivering the goods. According to the receipt, these were the older 50-90 Sharps rifles that a cartridge not found on the mesa cartridges. The 40-70 Sharps cartridge was first issued in an improved Sharps rifle in 1879--virtually the year of Hillsboro’s founding. Note that last year Susan Roebuck wrote about a hammer mechanism from a Sharps she uncovered near the Black Range Lodge in Kingston (Vol. 6 No. 1). Another interesting find is the bayonet-fitted muzzle loader found by “B” Franklin, father of HHS President Sonja Rutledge. This gun, found in a cave in the Caballo Mountains, is Civil War vintage. It is shown periodically in the interim display at the HHS Education Center.

Another common firearm of the time was the trapdoor Springfield. Many of the military were still carrying these when Hillsboro was founded, and no doubt some were surplused out or otherwise “liberated” by locals. Early versions of these fired the 50 Government cartridge; later the 45-70 was used. Both of these showed up on the Mesa. Territorial militia in the photograph four on the next page are all holding Springfield trapdoor rifles.

Next page: Receipt showing transfer of 19 Sharps rifles and ammunition. Photos 1. Ninette (Mrs George) Miller “shooting” a shotgun. 2. Unusual shot of an armed Chinese worker. 3. A young “vaquero.” 4. A territorial militia group with Springfield muskets. 5. Gallery shot of a “dude.”6. Unknown Hillsboro residents dressed up and posing. 7. The Harvey Ringer family with Grandpa proudly showing a fine old muzzle loader. Many of the photos with guns seemed intentionally posed.

Hillsboro N. M. May 14th 1898
 Received from Geo. T. Miller for Nicholas Gelles
 Nineteen Carbine (Strops 50 caliber) guns — Dollars
 (two of them with broken stocks - one with fine gold on ground) and
 one gun cleaner and 18 Bets (one gun holder gold on one Bet)
 and 4 pounds of ammunition.
 Wm. S. Russell



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



Instead of an armed citizenry, most of the photos from our collection and the the Black Range Museum show respectable folks often in work attire, business suits, or Sunday best with no guns on display. Seemingly, early Hillsboro was pretty tame most of the time.

The Fountain Murder Trial

The Hillsboro Historical Society (HHS) will reprise their successful production of “The Fountain Murder Trial, a creative reenactment” on Labor Day weekend, at 3pm August 30 and 31, 2014. The performances will take place at the Hillsboro Community Center, just a block away from the original trial over a century ago. The Reenactment will bring to life the historic figures of the accused, plus Pat Garrett, Thomas Catron, and Albert Bacon Fall, who were all participants. The audience is encouraged to come in old-west attire, as they will serve as the jury and decide the fate of the defendants. Advance tickets for the play will be available at the HHS gift shop and museum or reserved by calling (575)-895-3321.

The emotionally-charged trial of Oliver Lee and James Gililand will be recreated by thespians from the town where it took place in 1899 -- Hillsboro, New Mexico. The historic hamlet was once a thriving mining and ranching community, where the stately brick Sierra County courthouse represented lawfulness for 40 years. Whether justice was dispensed during that memorable trial in 1899 is still debated to this day.

Lee and Gililand were accused of the murder of Colonel Albert Jennings Fountain and his young son Henry. Fountain had been instrumental in indicting Lee for cattle rustling in Alamogordo, and was heading home to Mesilla, when he and his son disappeared near White Sands. Their horse and wagon were discovered in the area, but their bodies were never found.

Other Labor Day weekend events in Hillsboro include screenings of *Among the Dust of Thieves*, which dramatizes the days leading up to the Fountain disappearance, and “*Albert Fountain and the Spiderweb Trail*,” a presentation on the Fountain murder by noted southwest historian Karl Laumbach. Visitors may also take the self-guided walking tour of historic Hillsboro. To enhance the old-west atmosphere, a Cowboy Soiree will begin at 5pm on Saturday evening at the Black Range Vineyards wine bar on Main Street.

The Hillsboro Historical Society is located on Main Street, in the center of Hillsboro on NM Highway 152, and is open 11AM - 4PM Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 575- 895-3321. Come dressed in western attire and join in the events!

Contact: Garland Bills - 575-895-5141 <gbills@unm.edu>

MUSEUM STORE AND EDUCATION CENTER



Hours: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 11am to 4pm.

BLACK RANGE VINEYARDS

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH
@ 7PM FOR OUR
Meet Your Neighbor Series
WITH**

**STEVE DOBROTT
LONG-TIME MANAGER
OF THE
LADDER RANCH**

**There will be an
opportunity to peruse
the ongoing exhibit of
the Ladder Ranch at the Hillsboro Historical
Society after the presentation**

575.895.5119



Ladder Ranch Display at the Education Center

Donald W. Graham 1926-2014



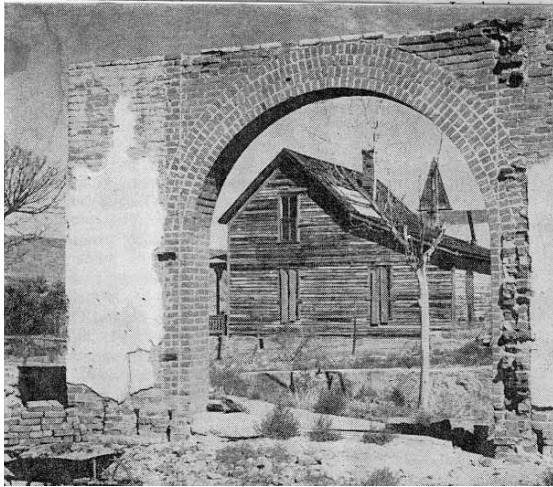
Donald William Graham passed away Fort Bayard Medical Center on July 30th, 2014. Donald was born on January 22nd, 1926 to Elizabeth Inglis Kinney and Arlo Phillips Graham in Kingston. Donald attended school in Kingston, Hillsboro and Deming. He graduated from Deming High School in 1943, where he was in track and field, captain of the basketball team, played football, and participated in FFA. After graduation, Donald became a forest fire fighter in Kingston. In February 1945 Donald entered the United States Navy. He served on the escort carrier USS Tulagi (CVE 22) in the Philippines through the end of World War II. Donald returned to New Mexico where he attended New Mexico State University and cowboied for neighboring ranches. During the early 50's Donald and his brother in law, Richard Strand, started a chicken farm in Honey Grove, Texas. He also took an interest in bulldogging and traveled the rodeo circuit. Donald then went to work for the New Mexico Cattle Sanitary Board and the United States Army on the White Sands Missile Range gathering wild horses and burros off the range. By the end of his stay at White Sands, he was a cameraman tracking the trajectory of test missiles. In 1958, Donald married Karol Ann Gordon. They had three children, Penny and Scott born in New Mexico and LeAnne born in California, where Donald became a certified appraiser. By 1969 he had established the Graham Appraisal Service, where he appraised for Deming Federal Savings among others. He served on the board of Home Federal Savings. Donald took over the family ranch at Nutt when his father retired. In 2009, he worked with his son, Scott, and John Knight of Element Power to create the Macho Springs wind farm. By 2010, twenty-eight wind turbines were erected on the little place that Arlo Graham had purchased in 1929 as a holding pasture for the Nutt railroad shipping pens. Donald was a valuable friend and resource to the Hillsboro Historical Society, sharing his amazing recollection of the history of Hillsboro, Kingston and Lake Valley. He was a longtime member of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association and with the Masonic Lodge of Kingston for sixty-seven years, serving as Master of Lodge in 1952. Donald is survived by his three children and spouses: Penny & David McCauley of Silver City, Scott Graham of Austin, Texas and LeAnne and Darryl Troutman of Denver, Colorado. And six grandchildren: John, Daniel and Zachery McCauley; Brianna Graham; Ande and Michael Troutman. He was preceded in death by his parents

Delia Crafton

Stretch Luna informs us that Delia Crafton passed away in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 30, 2014. Delia grew up in Hillsboro. Her mother and aunt ran a grocery store in 1912-13 across the street from the gas station and motel that now belongs to Gary Sapp.

Historic Buildings: K. L. Nations House

Built before 1898. Reportedly occupied by Judge Parker, who presided over the trial of Oliver Lee and Jim Gilliland for the murder of Henry Fountain in 1899. Parker became Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court in 1912.



1949



2014

MEMBERSHIP

OUR MEMBERSHIPS ARE ON A FEBRUARY 1 TO JANUARY 31 ANNUAL BASIS. ANY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS WE RECEIVE AFTER NOVEMBER 15 WILL BE CONSIDERED 2014 MEMBERSHIPS VALID FROM FEB 1, 2014 TO JANUARY 31, 2015. .

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. 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