

Guajolotes, Zopilotes y Paisanos

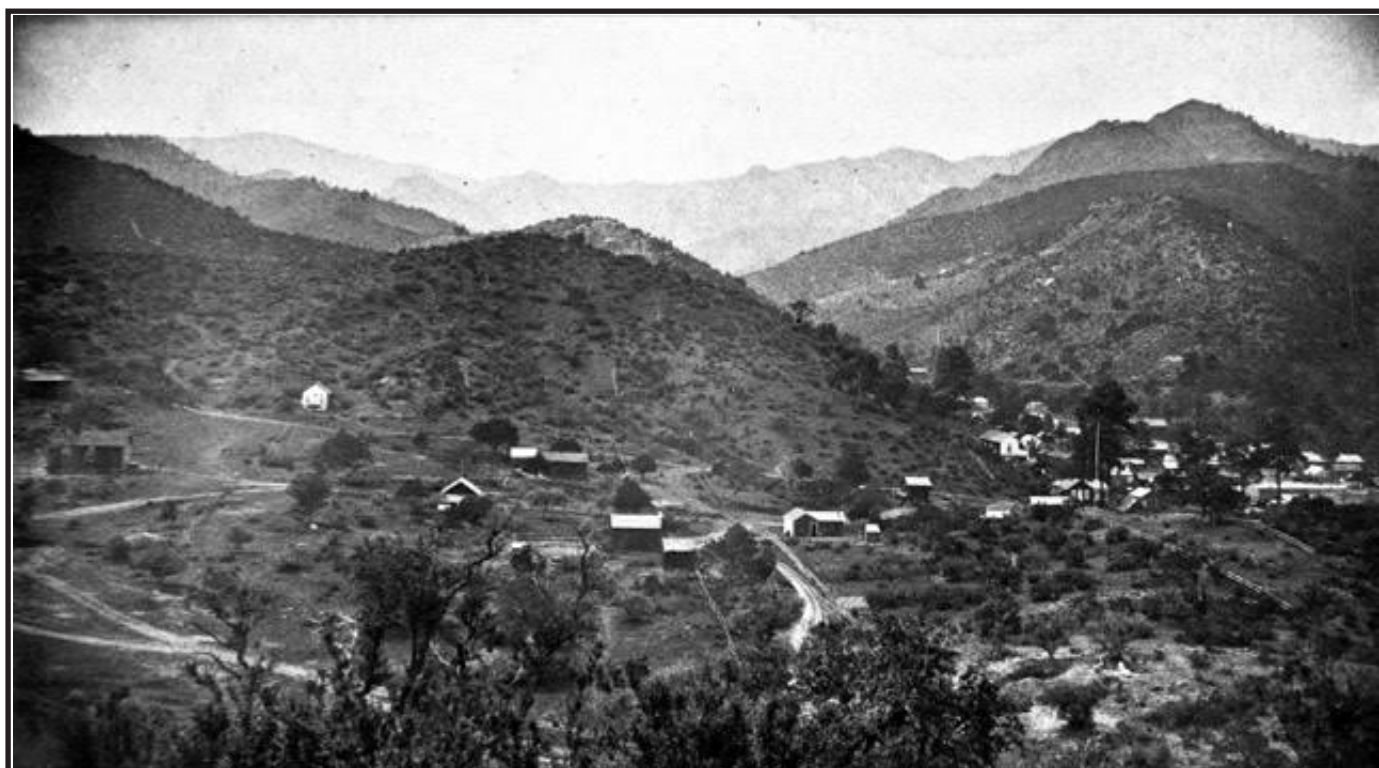
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Hillsboro Historical Society

February 2017

Kingston in the 1880s

Kingston Schoolhouse Museum

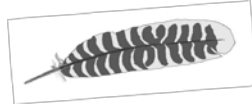


Undated Early Photograph of Kingston Looking West

HHS Member makes National News in Scotland

Expanded Percha Watershed Timeline

President's Message



Greetings. Wow another year in the books and a new year fresh upon us. When I stop to look back on all we have accomplished in 2016 I am just in awe. Garland has put together a wonderful summary of our accomplishments in his article so I will won't steal his thunder. Looking towards 2017 there is much left to do at the Museum. When the weather cooperates we will have another clean-up day to dispose of the trash. We should have an operating bathroom and water on the property before too long, in addition we are beginning to unravel the electrical within the Museum. Nichole and Steve are working on the outside landscaping plan and should have a draft copy sometime this spring. We are planning an appreciation day for all of our membership and volunteers on Labor Day Weekend. The Board will have food, drink and events going on for your entertainment that Saturday... so stay tuned! We should have a new display up in the next month within the museum as we continue to clean and set-up. Stop by anytime, the progress is amazing. With all this going on, it has also come to our attention that the owner of the Courthouse and Jail properties is seriously wanting to sell. Given the historic significance of these properties we are very interested in seeing them owned by the Historical Society. If you have any ideas please let us know... Until next time...best always.

Larry Cosper

Guajolotes, Zopilotes y Paisanos is the quarterly newsletter of the:
Hillsboro Historical Society
P. O. Box 461
Hillsboro, New Mexico, 88042

The mission of Hillsboro Historical Society's is to preserve, collect, and protect the history of Hillsboro, Kingston and the surrounding area. We are an all-volunteer, non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

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The title for this newsletter is inspired by the association of Hillsboro and Kingston with Percha Creek. The name Percha may derive from the fact that turkeys "perch" or roost along it. Perhaps there were more historically than there are now. Of course, Hillsboro and Kingston both have their own seasonal vulture (zopilote) roosts, so the term remains appropriate. Paisanos are countrymen or friends, a term that applies to us humans who also "roost" here. In our small towns, we are extremely diverse in roots, religion, and politics, yet we remain countrymen. In keeping with the avian title motif, in the Southwest roadrunners, which also live within the Percha Creek watershed, are called paisanos.

The Black Range Museum – 2016 Year-End Report

The Hillsboro Historical Society (HHS) purchased the Black Range Museum (BRM) in March 2016. The purchase was made possible by many people who value the heritage of Hillsboro, Kingston, and Lake Valley. At least 92 donors contributed almost \$69,000. At least 45 individuals have volunteered their time, skills, and effort to clean, evaluate, and upgrade the building and its contents.

RESEARCH

A first step in long-range planning involves understanding the history of the BRM. Research in the records of the Sierra County Clerk's office and the Geronimo Springs Museum and gleaning information from contemporary newspapers have been productive. We know that Hillsboro Hydraulic Mining Company was the original claimant of the property when Sierra County was created in 1884. We've uncovered new information on the most famous owners of the building, Sadie Orchard and Tom Ying. For example, Sadie didn't actually buy the property until 1919 although it was clearly her Ocean Grove Hotel from at least the turn of the century. And Tom Ying claimed ownership in 1923 and ran his restaurant there until the mid-1950s. Tying together these pieces of research has led to the submission of a proposal to the New Mexico Historic Preservation Department to place the BRM on the state and national register of historic places. History consultant, Jean Fulton, provided advice and editing in preparation of this proposal. The museum's historic building and the iconic adobe water tower in back deserve comprehensive care and will require major funding. We will be preparing applications for grants to support comprehensive restoration of the building.

REPAIRS

We made emergency repairs on the roof over two rooms that had seriously damaging leaks. We've dug a trench to uncover the flimsy plastic line that fails to deliver water to the building. Laying new pipe and getting a toilet and sink into the bathroom should be accomplished shortly. We've made some progress in cleaning up the grounds and eradicating much of the dense Tree of Heaven infestation. HHS member Steve Morgan, landscape architect, is preparing a plan or beautifying the grounds.

INVENTORY

The BRM contained far more items than could be effectively displayed, and getting a handle on the amazing array of items within the museum was given first priority. This involves identifying and cleaning each item and entering it into a database along with a photograph, unique number, and as much information on provenance as we can find. "Cleaning" is limited only to removing dust, dirt, cobwebs, insect parts, and rodent droppings. Our volunteers lack the training for more comprehensive cleaning, especially of fabrics, and we have the funds only for the most basic materials for preservation. To facilitate this effort, we purchased a 40-foot storage unit. As our inventory work has progressed, we have been able to move much of the collection into storage. Our goal is to develop rooms representing specific historical themes, as well as at least one room in which we will periodically change themes. We were able to re-open the BRM in November. However, only two rooms were opened to the general public. One is the HHS Gift Shop, and the other is Tom Ying's kitchen. We hope to have two more rooms ready to open by Spring. HHS is extremely grateful for all the support we've received for the BRM, and hope you'll continue your support in 2017.

Thanks to All Who Have Helped

As 2016 draws to a close, the Board of Directors of the **Hillsboro Historical Society** wishes to thank all those who responded so generously to our fund-raising drives and made possible the purchase of the **Black Range Museum**. Your financial support makes the enterprise a success.

Foundational Donors*

Garland D. Bills
Joe and Sandy Ficklin
William C. and Patsy C. King
Lynn Tittmann Mullins
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Sonja Rutledge
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Patty Woodruff and Harley Shaw

*A list of all donors will be included in the May Newsletter.

The Board also wishes to thank all those who contributed time and effort to the Black Range Museum and other HHS activities over the past year. Those efforts include fund raising events, basic repairs, grounds tending, historical research, grant writing, cleaning, inventorying, storage, staffing, and much more.

Chris Adams
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Nichole Trushell
Robin Tuttle
Wilbert Williams
Patty Woodruff

The Kingston Schoolhouse Museum

Barbara Lovell

While HHS is extremely excited and Barb Lovell is doing yeoman's labor sorting and recording our newly-acquired artifacts, she nonetheless wants to remind visitors of another museum worth seeing -- Editor.



In 1891, Kingston was one of the wildest towns in the West. It had its share of gamblers, prostitutes, outlaws and miners who supported its 22 saloons, 14 grocery stores, 3 major hotels and numerous boarding houses. However, it also had a more refined side which supported an opera house, a church and a school.

The first school was probably built soon after the town was established in 1882. It was a typical one room building of wood frame construction that served all grades. The Methodists and Episcopalians used the schoolhouse on Sundays as their place of worship.

In 1890, a disastrous fire burned on the north side of Main Street, which destroyed the school. It was decided to sell the property to the Episcopal Diocese and choose a new location for the school.

The new building was also one room but constructed of adobe. It had a wood burning stove for heat and both single and double desks for the students. The water source was a crock with a spout and a bucket on the floor to catch the drips. A gas lamp hung from the center of the ceiling as an additional light source.

Kingston had a population surge and in 1935 a room was added to the east side of the building, about doubling its size. The school eventually closed in the 1950's.

The building is now owned by the Spit & Whittle Club of Kingston. The club was formed by the miners in the 1880's as a social club. As it is still in operation today, it is one of the oldest social clubs in the west.

In 2012, Kingston held a state centennial celebration in an effort to raise funds to restore the building. Our mission was accomplished and the little schoolhouse is now ready to serve our community for many more years.

Most recently it has become the Kingston Schoolhouse Museum. We are celebrating Kingston's past and preserving its history. It will no longer hear the voices of Kingston's children, but it will be thoroughly enjoyed by the dedicated members of the Spit & Whittle Club who have made sure that it will be here for future generations.

The Museum will be open the first and third Saturdays of each month from 11 am to 3 pm. We also offer tours of "Main Street Kingston in 1890" by appointment. You may call 575 895-5501. The cost is \$10 per person and a minimum of 5 is required. We also hold fundraising events throughout the year. We hope you will stop by to see all that we have accomplished and enjoy learning about Kingstons past.

HHS Member makes National News in Scotland

On December 3, 2016, the following message from Peter Hutchinson, a gentleman in Scotland, popped up in my emails. Penny McCauley is on our Board of Advisors and helped produce our web page. Her grandfather, A. P. (Arlo) Graham, ran cattle around Kingston and over the top of the Black Range. Her father, Donald Graham, was one of the keepers of our regional history. Her roots are entwined throughout our region, including ancestors who lived at Tierra Blanca. She is one of the busiest people I know, so I was only mildly surprised when she made "national" news in Scotland. Regarding her connection to Daniel Dugan, a Hillsboro founder, she wrote: "Daniel Dugan was the first husband of Elizabeth Hair Inglis, who was my grandmother's (Maggie) grandmother. They had a son named Thomas Inglis. He inherited the TI ranch from Daniel Dugan in 1884. Thomas married Jane Crawford (my great great grandfather's niece) in Kilmacolm, Scotland --Editor.

Dear Mr. Shaw:

Let me introduce myself, I am Peter Hutchison, membership secretary of Renfrewshire Family History Society based in Paisley, Scotland.

You may wonder why I should be writing to you. I shall explain. I volunteer twice a week assisting anyone seeking help in finding their ancestors. On a Tuesday and Thursday morning I can be found in a room at Paisley Abbey. (built c 1150s) Recently a lady from New Mexico visited seeking some help in tracing the birthplace of her ancestor Daniel Dugan and others. I have been in constant touch with this lady having found where he actually stayed etc. In her latest e-mail she suggested I look at the HHS site and lo and behold there is Daniel on your home page.

Penny (Penny McCauley) is coming again next year so that she can visit locations Daniel would have been at and to see a bit of our beautiful Scottish Highlands.

There is an interesting coincidence concerning her visit here. So interesting in fact that the story of her visit was reported in our local and national press. I have attached the story I gave the reporter which was printed word for word.

Congratulations on having a really good site. I intend to keep up with the latest Hillsboro news via your pages. May you and all your members have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Kindest regards from Scotland.



Penny and Shannon at Paisley Abbey

were completed she told us she was looking for Stevenson family information, especially in the Kilmacolm area. Whilst we chatted away it transpired that she also had a connection to the Crawford family. Penny and Shannon starting comparing notes, names, dates etc. and discovered they had a common ancestor. They were overjoyed and rather taken aback, that two ladies could travel on different days, from different states in the USA, to Paisley Abbey, be in The Abbey at the same time and find out that they are basically related. Quite a coincidence. For a while we, the volunteers were not required whilst Penny and Shannon delved into each others family trees. We just sat back and watched and listened, amazed at the mornings events.

Coincidence at The Abbey

Peter Hutchison, Renfrewshire Family History Association
Paisley, Scotland

Tuesday 27th September 2016 was just another day for us, the volunteers at Paisley Abbey. I was sitting with David Rowand, Wilson McNair and Peter Crawford sorting out the problems of the world when we got a visitor. The lady introduced herself as Penny McCauley (Member No. 252) from New Mexico, USA. After introductions were over Penny told us she was seeking information on the Dugan and Crawford families. We (particularly Peter Crawford) were able to give her some advice on the Crawford family, he also promised to send her addresses on where she could find other relevant information. We went on to have a very pleasant chat pertaining to her family history and indeed her family. Two of her sons were here with her but they preferred a round of golf in Greenock to a visit to The Abbey.

Whilst we chatted away we got another two visitors from the USA a husband and wife by the name of Shannon and Robert Michael from Seattle, USA. The husband was obviously less interested in genealogy as he went to look around The Abbey. Shannon stayed and after introductions

From the Archives: Kingston, the Gem of the Black Range--1883

The following article is excerpted from a 50-page booklet written by Charles W. Greene, editor of the TRIBUNE, one of Kingston's first newspapers. The book had two title pages: The Mines of Kingston, New Mexico, the Center of the Famous Percha District; and A Sketch of Kingston and its Surroundings--Its Resources and Advantages Truthfully Presented to the Attention of Business Men and Capitalists. The book was at the authors admission, purely promotional, but it portrays an honest appraisal of Kingston in its developmental stages. And the author has a delightful tongue-in-cheek style that suggests he isn't taking his subject too seriously. Editor.

Few places have ever attracted so much attention within so brief a period of time as has the one which it is the purpose of this pamphlet to describe. In a section of the country comparatively little known to the general public, but recently the exclusive home of the Indian, a locality having few attractions for the average newspaper reporter, it's almost marvelous wealth of mineral deposits had never been suspected. The Kingston or Percha district is not, however, a placer district as is the region around Hillsboro, twelve miles distant. Here the precious metals are found only in lodes or veins, and the extraction of them, although extremely profitable, is a work of time, labor and patience, requiring ample resources of working capital. It is not a poor man's district, and the prospector who discovers never so good a property must wait until the attention of the capitalist has been secured before he can realize any portion of its actual value. Such attention has been and is being attracted, and no week now passes that there are not only one but several transfers of property to men having means to develop it. To assist such parties in making their selections intelligently ; to give a general idea of the location of the Percha district, relatively to the surrounding country; to present the special features of its geological formations and mineral deposits, and the extent of their development; to describe briefly the mines and prospects upon which work has been done already, and the indications presented in each, making of it so far as possible a record of the dates of location and present ownership; these are some of the objects in view in making this publication. It is not advisable to attract here the mechanic or laborer before there is work for them, or the merchant whose business is already overdone. Such industries come in their due time.

Location of the Percha District

Its boundaries are not distinctly denned, but nature has so disposed the mountain ranges that it is not difficult to point out what may be fairly considered tributary to Kingston as a common center, having community interests. It is located on the eastern slope of the Black Range near its southern terminus. It includes the vallies of the chief tributaries of the Rio Percha, known as the north, middle and south Perchas, with the smaller creeks emptying into them, and the upper or western canyons or gulches drained by Trujillo creek. The Tierra Blanca district lies directly south and is disputed territory as between the Kingston and Lake Valley people, but is not likely to remain so when the toll-road recently incorporated shall be built between Kingston and Deming via the Tierra Blanca [white earth]. Over a divide to the northeast of the Hillsboro mine, on the north Percha, is the True Fissure district on a tributary of the same. Still farther north in the same direction is the Cave creek district. These are both tributary to Kingston and will become identified in interest with it.

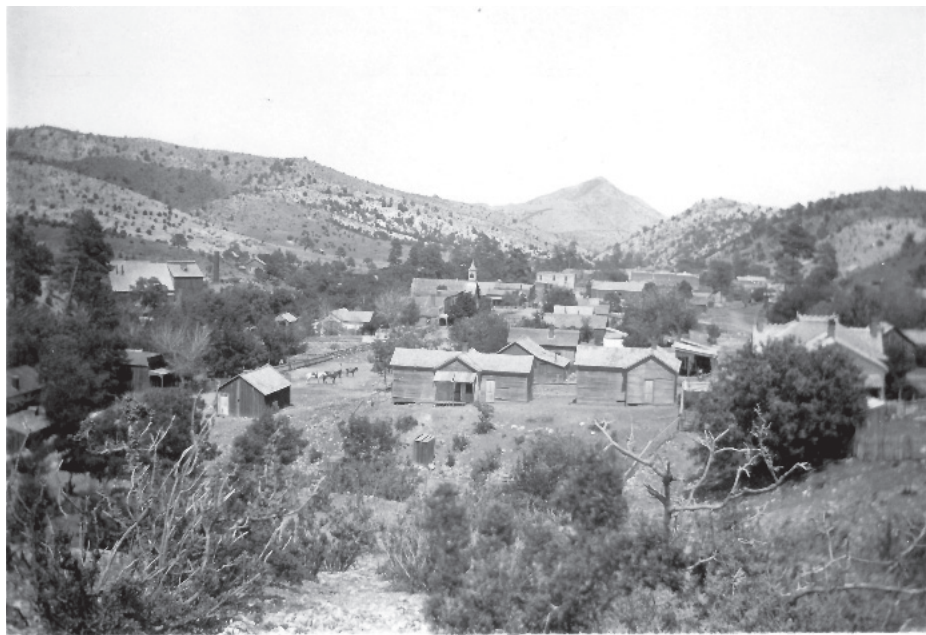
Kingston, the mercantile center of the district, and Percha City, where are located several stores and a sawmill, are accessible by an excellent wagon road from Hillsboro, about twelve miles distant from either point. The distance is not more than eight miles as the crow flies almost due east from Kingston. From Hillsboro to Lake Valley it is sixteen miles, and to Nutt, the railway station thirteen miles farther, making a total distance of forty-one miles, most of the way over roads which could hardly be improved by macadamizing. Traveling on horseback over the mountain trails the distance to Lake Valley is less than twenty miles, and to Percha City but about three miles by the road it is six miles. By the proposed toll-road to Deming the distance will be forty-five miles. By the trail across the mountains to Georgetown it is twenty-five miles, and to Silver City, twenty-two miles farther. To the north of us, in the Range, is Chloride, forty miles, and Grafton, forty-eight miles by the trail, or fifty-five and sixty-five miles, respectively, by the wagon road via Hillsboro. From here to Socorro across the country by available routes the distance is about one hundred and sixty miles.

Topography of the District

The general surface of the district is broken by spurs of the main range which shoot out from it in varying directions and which are scored by deep gulches or canyons, often presenting almost perpendicular walls hundreds of feet high. Standing upon the higher peaks the view is extremely picturesque, and one wonders how so many small

mountains, or great hills, can be crowded into so small a space. As you clamber along the sides of them, even upon a well worn trail, you instinctively lean toward the upper side, with the consciousness that from a misstep or a fall there could be no recovery before reaching the bottom, hundreds of feet below. It requires good wind, strong limbs, steady nerves and strong boots and clothing to prospect in the mountains, or to follow the prospector into the out of the way places which he ventures into in the search for gold.

In some places the creeks have apparently cut through the solid rock which confines them to narrow channels having perpendicular walls, and into which the sun only reaches the bottom for a brief period of each day. The fall is so rapid that in the rainy season torrents come down the gulches of great depth and moving with tremendous force, displacing and carrying along great masses of rock, or anything, indeed, which may come in their way. The suddenness with which great bodies of water, falling from a "cloud-burst," sometimes come rolling down the creek beds and arroyos is startling, and it is not infrequent that teams or horsemen are caught and swept away in the irresistible current. Throughout the entire district the vallies and mountain slopes are quite thickly covered with cedar, pine, pinon, juniper, mountain live oak, wild cherry, willow, birch and black walnut, all of it except the pine and birch of stunted growth. Several varieties of the cactus and of the soap weed, as well as the vicious Spanish bayonet, are found in abundance, and many of them will be eventually utilized for their fine, strong fibres and other properties. None of this class of plants are adapted for sitting upon and they are always ready to repel advances toward a close acquaintance. Occasionally the mesquite is found



Undated photo of early Kingston , looking east

and other shrubs, all having a sturdy growth in keeping with the rugged surroundings. On both the north and south Perchas saw mills have been erected and considerable quantities of excellent lumber and shingles have been made from the pines, which grow to quite large size. Above Kingston, on the middle Percha, and in the less accessible ravines, to which roads are not easily constructed, there is considerable excellent timber yet undisturbed.

Climatic and Other Advantages

Though situated at an altitude corresponding with that of Santa Fe, Kingston is a little higher, or about 7,400 feet, it is so much farther south that the temperature is even more agreeable than there. While the rays of the sun from June to August may be oppressive to those directly exposed to them, the least shade affords full protection, and the nights are so cool that one must sleep under cover always. In winter the thermometer rarely ever makes a record so low as zero, and it is only in the deep gorges of the highest mountains, where the sun cannot penetrate, that ice can ever be obtained. There it is only possible by flowing over and freezing a thin layer at a time. Upon the highest peaks of the main range snow lies nearly all the winter from December to March but never to a considerable depth. In all the mountains of this mining district it seldom remains forty-eight hours after it has fallen, and never exceeds a few inches in depth. There is not a day during the year that the miner is prevented from working by the severity of the weather, either in heat or cold. During ten months of the year it is almost continuous sunshine, the rain or snow falling, if at all, at night and always in limited quantities. The rainy season, from the middle of June to August, is but a succession of heavier showers, falling sometimes in torrents but not lasting more than an hour or two. It is not a disagreeable season in any respect as affecting personal comfort. It is warm and one would be quite willing to take a wetting except for its effect upon the clothing. There are no cold storms. It rains in right good earnest for an hour or two and then the sun shines out brighter than before.

The Percha district is more than usually fortunate in having a permanent and abundant water supply, and gen-

erally distributed. It is as pure as possible and will be ample in quantity for manufacturing purposes as well as for domestic use. There is flowing water in each of the principal branches of the Percha and in their larger tributaries throughout the entire year, and springs abound upon the mountain sides as well as in the vallies.

As a health resort this locality ought to become exceedingly popular. The uniformity of its temperature, the low degree of humidity, the purity of air and water, and the absence of any malarial or other injurious influences, combined with the attractions of the picturesque mountain scenery, are enough to induce a visitation from those who are unfortunately invalids.

There are two quite strong sulphur springs near Kingston but the writer is not advised that any analysis has ever been made to determine their medicinal properties.

Kingston, the Mercantile Center

It is a history of a few months only which can be recorded of Kingston at the present writing ; but they are months full of incident, of a remarkable growth, of steady advancement, of persistent effort on the part of all its people, of success in its undertakings. Within them the foundations have been laid broad and deep upon which to build a mining metropolis that shall surpass any other in the Territory.

It had not been heard of one year ago, and it was not until the Lake Valley exhibit at Denver had excited general attention and started a great stream of emigration to Southern New Mexico that the mineral wealth which surrounds it begun to be generally known and the town of Kingston became an established fact. It is true that many mining locations had been made within the district, and that considerable work had been done upon the Iron King from which the town takes its name showing up immense bodies of ore.

The Bullion had upon its dump a few tons of ore which when sampled surprised even its owners by its remarkably high grade. The Grey Eagle, with its extensive croppings had been located and was already involved in litigation. The value of the Superior property was suspected and shrewd operators were negotiating for its purchase; and there was enough in a general way to attract the overflow of miners, merchants and camp followers which Lake Valley could not make room for.

About the same time came information that "float" had been found upon the Solitaire, three miles from Kingston, on the North Percha, which was practically solid mineral (sulphide, yielding eighty per cent, of fine silver). Not only was it in little nuggets, it was in masses, one of them weighing three hundred and forty pounds. The property was bonded by Tabor & Wurtzebach for \$100,000, and a cash payment of \$10,000 was made upon it. The large piece of float referred to was taken to the Denver Exposition where it shared the honors with the six hundred and forty pound piece of chloride from Lake Valley.

The press of the whole country became actively interested and the name and fame of the camp was circulated far and wide. As a result of all these influences people came pouring in till not less, probably, than three thousand had come to view the "promised land."

Kingston grew as by magic. Lots upon its main street advanced on the run from nothing to a thousand dollars each. Purchasers could be found for lots in the several additions and the question of title was hardly considered for a moment. Lumber and building materials could not be gotten fast enough; mechanics could command their own price. The road from the railroad was alive with vehicles of every description, stages, hacks, freight wagons and family wagons. Even the patient burro plodded along, doing his share to fill up the country.

But there was too much of a good thing all at once. Prospectors found less than a claim apiece for all who came, and the choice of them taken long before their arrival. Miners and laborers were too many for the demand. Of merchants there was quite too large a proportion.

The flurry of excitement was soon over. While no one could gainsay that the mines were as good as represented, everyone could appreciate that it would take time, patience, perseverance and capital to develop them. The floating element drifted away; business settled into legitimate channels. Those who determined to stay curtailed expenses, and adopted the methods of established communities. The delay in obtaining materials was a fortunate hindrance, preventing the construction of too many buildings, so that there are few more than the actual need.

A more beautiful town-site could hardly be selected. It occupies a plateau in a cove of the mountains, elevated a little above the Middle Percha, the waters of which course through the town length wise and parallel with its main street. It furnishes an abundant supply of water for every purpose. The principal street is eighty feet wide, extending through the town as originally laid out, and also through the upper and lower additions. There is a gradual descent toward the east, and there is quite sufficient space immediately adjacent for a population of twenty thousand.

The first survey on the townsite was completed August 21st by Parker Taylor, and was of the Home Ticket mining claim, owned by A. Barnaby. Next was the Lula claim, belonging to Fraser & Holt, and then the Grand View mill-site, below Water street, owned by Pressly Johnson. The Copper Queen claim, adjoining the Home Ticket, was

also platted, and later the Hornet, across the creek, put on the market by Barnaby and Webster, and a number of residence lots were sold from it.

Meantime the Iron King mill-site, above the town, was purchased by Messrs. Boss, Ritchie and others and a company was organized. The site was surveyed and platted and some sales made, but there has been as yet but little building upon it. As a residence locality it cannot be excelled; it offers some of the prettiest building sites to be found anywhere.

The Kingston Town Company was organized October 1st, 1882. by T. F. Chapman, Jame A. Lockhart, Robert Hopper. Col. J. C. Logan. Frank Adams. C. H. Phelps. Thomas Kelly. Ellis Miller, H. G. Clark and J. C. Roberts. The property purchased constitutes the eastern portion of the town and includes the Galveston, Old Iowa, Eureka, Mexican Central, Kentucky, Last Chance, and other mill-site locations. To put the property in form, fractions were purchased from surrounding mining claims, the whole making about five hundred lots, 25 by 100 feet being the standard size. The first officers of the company were T. F. Chapman, president ; G. W. Hartmann, secretary; J. A. Lockhart, treasurer, and Messrs. Chapman, Lockhart, Miller, Roberts and Hopper, directors. About one hundred lots have been sold. Several proprietary interests have changed hands so that the present owners are Messrs. Chapman, Lockhart, Hopper, Maxwell and Clark, and W. W. Maxwell is the present secretary. Extensive improvements are in progress : the streets are being cleared and fencing the blocks is being done under contract. The location is a very desirable one and covers the water privileges and sites where the mills, smelters and other manufactories of the district will necessarily be located--some of them in the near future. Its surface is enough diversified to insure good drainage and furnishes desirable business and residence locations.

At the present time nearly all of the business is located upon the main street and nearly all of the mercantile and mechanical industries are well represented. The Percha Bank was established several months since, and the TRIBUNE newspaper and job office, in which this pamphlet is printed and bound, has been well supported since the first of the year.

Its society is characteristic of the frontier, but contains a greater number of refined and educated people than one would expect to find so far from the comforts and conveniences to which they have been accustomed in eastern homes. The love of adventure or the desire for gain has brought the head of the family, and the wife and children come that they may be near and share with him the privations and toil which fall to his lot. As rapidly as possible they gather about them the luxuries as well as the necessities of life; they improve and beautify their homes, and when they have struck it rich live as opulently as the most prosperous capitalists of the older states. The rough board house is often furnished in far better style than its exterior betokens, and probably there is as much real enjoyment and family contentment amid such surroundings as in the brown stone or marble palaces of the great cities.

Private schools have been well supported almost from the first, although the number of children is proportionately much smaller than in an agricultural district. Steps have been taken to secure the organization of a school district, and until such time as the public funds are available good schools will be sustained by personal subscription.

As to churches, this has not seemed to be a specially inviting field for missionaries. No church buildings have been erected, nor have any societies been organized.

Good public order has always been maintained. Life and property is more secure than in many older communities, and though there is no local government except as represented in a justice of the peace and a deputy sheriff there are but few infractions of the law, and those of a trivial character. There is as much business honor and as few bad debts as will be found anywhere. Although it is by no means unpopular to take a drink of beer or whiskey, and temperance societies would not secure a large membership in the camp, there is but little drinking to excess, and no more drunkenness on the streets than is usual elsewhere.

Hillsboro Historical Society Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Hillsboro Community Center. 3 PM. Everyone invited.

PERCHA WATERSHED AREA TIMETABLE

For the past three issues, I've been experimenting (struggling?) with the idea of a timeline for our region hoping to find a way to put both deep and recent history into perspective. I've learned that such a timeline can't be constructed in a linear, single page document. I recently acquired a copy of Bernard Grun's *The Timetables of History* and realized that it represented, on a much grander scale, what I was trying to create for our immediate region. The idea is to develop an organic document that can be edited and modified as our knowledge increases. I've decided to present the expanded timeline concept here, hoping that our members might help fill in blanks. To keep it within our pages, I've truncated the deep history (prior to about 200 AD), merging the cells and columns of that section of the table. I've retained a version of the larger table in a computer file, so that knowledge of those pre-archaeological and pre-historic eras can also be entered as information becomes available. I'm not sure that the categories I've come up with will suffice over the long haul, and I'm open to suggestions. The timetable is outgrowing the newsletter, so this is probably the last time it will appear here. We'll have to maintain it elsewhere, to be determined. Send additions or comments to hgshaw@windstream.net. Or leave a message at the Black Range Museum: 575-895-3321.

PERIOD	GEOMORPHIC PROCESSES/CLIMATE ¹	SCIENCE/ARCHAEOLOGY/EXPLORATION	CIVIC ACTIVITES	MINING, RANCHING, BUSINESS
<p>80-300 mya*: Alternating lowlands and wetlands and shallow sea. Sedimentary deposits. Continents bridging equator. Alternating tropical forest and marine flora and fauna. Climate warm, moist.</p> <p>25-80 mya: Colliding tectonic plates push up great mountain ranges with intermittent valleys. Mountains collapse due to weakness of continental crust. Plate slippage shifts directions. Friction between plates creates massive volcanic action. Continued collapses and fragmentation of mountains and crust creating complex mixed-age rock jumbles. Rebounding continental shift causes the Mogollon-Datil volcanic field and the Rio Grande Rift. Volcanism increases, pushing up giant mountain which was predecessor of Black Range. Mountain collapses inwardly forming Emory Caldera. This uplift and collapse happens at least three times.</p> <p>2.5-25 mya: Cold/wet periods create massive outflows from mountain resulting in broad outwash plains between the Black Range and the Rio Grande. Minor faulting and resulting downcutting creates large canyons intersecting plains. Percha Creek is one of these. Ongoing minor volcanism creates lava caps on mountains and mesas through the area.</p> <p>130,000 BP** – 2.5 mya: Final period of massive sedimentary outflows. Canyons on east face of Black Range well established in approximate current formations. Ice ages. Alternating cold and moderate climates.</p> <p>15,000 to 130,000 BP: Continued warming. Most geological activity surficial—continued formation, rearrangement of surface layers, landslides, stream aggradation. Vegetation generally shifted downward from present distributions. Mixed conifer (spruce-fir) forest probably reaching downhill perhaps to 5000 feet (elevation of Hillsboro); pinyon-juniper woodlands extending into plains. Ponderosa pine very limited or missing. Disappearance of many large ice-age mammals. End of ice age. Beginning of warmer climates trending toward modern conditions.</p> <p>15,000 – 1800 BP (200 AD): Most geological activity surficial—continued canyon formation, rearrangement of surface layers, landslides, stream aggradation. Periodic fires and subsequent flooding affect surficial geology. Vegetation generally shifted downward from present distributions. Mixed conifer (spruce-fir) forest probably reaching downhill perhaps to 5000 feet (elevation of Hillsboro); pinyon-juniper woodlands in sparse patches, if at all. Ponderosa pine missing. Flat lands toward river covered with big sagebrush and grasses. Modern wildlife species beginning to assume current distributions. Periodic burning becomes an ecological force. Continued warming. Alternating wet and dry periods.</p> <p>Arrival of Paleo-Indians (15,000-8000 BP. Transition to Archaic human era (8000-2000 BP).</p>				
200-1450 AD	<p>Only ongoing surface activity—erosion, landslides, flooding, etc.</p> <p>800-808. Wet. ¹</p> <p>881-885. Drought.</p> <p>908-920. Wet</p> <p>940-1040. Precipitation below long-term average.</p> <p>1050-1125. Extended wet period.</p> <p>1125-1140. Short but severe drought.</p> <p>1193-1203. Wet.</p> <p>1210-1305. Extended drought. 1272-1296 severe. Called the "Great Drought".</p> <p>1309-1314. Wet</p> <p>1377-1393. Wet.</p>	<p>Vegetation generally as at present. Native fauna generally as at present.</p> <p><i>200-1000 AD</i>. Early to late Pithouse periods.</p> <p><i>1000-1130 AD</i>. Classic Period. Classic Mimbres phase. Establishment of dense ponderosa pine stands</p> <p>Various stages of eastern Mimbres culture present.</p> <p><i>1130—late 1100s AD</i>. Collapse of classic Mimbres.</p> <p>Early Postclassic period. Terminal Classic Mimbres phase.</p> <p><i>1130-early 1200s AD</i>. Early Postclassic period. Mimbres Reorganization phase.</p> <p><i>1200-1300/1400 AD</i>. Early Postclassic period. Black Mountain, El Paso, and Animas phases. <i>1300-1450 AD</i>. Late Postclassic period. Cliff phase.²</p>	<p>Human populations low.</p> <p>Shift from pithouse to above ground dwellings. Increased population.</p> <p>Mimbres disappear from NM. Possibly subsumed into Casas Grandes. Probably drought-related.</p>	<p>750-1000. Mimbres interacting with Hohokam at increased levels.</p> <p>Changes in farming practices using checkdams, possible irrigation. Increased food storage.</p> <p>Increased commerce with Casas Grandes.</p>
1400-1800	<p>Little Ice Age. Prolonged cooler temperatures.</p> <p>1400-1500. Precipitation patterns generally benign.</p> <p>1425-1435. Wet.</p> <p>1445-1450. Modest drought</p> <p>1571-1587. Modest drought.</p> <p>1634-1641. Wet.</p> <p>1666-1674. Drought.</p> <p>1677-1683. Wet.</p> <p>1720-1727. Wet.</p> <p>1776-1771. Wet.</p> <p>1772-1782. Drought</p> <p>1790-1795. Wet.</p>	<p>Arrival of Athapascans and Spaniards.</p> <p>1581. Rodriquez-Chamuscado expedition crossed mouth of Percha Creek.</p> <p>1583. Espejo, traveled northward for 15 days from the location of current El Paso, Probably crossed Percha Creek. Vegetation made of of mesquite groves and prickly pears in lower elevations; pine, pinyon, "sabines", and cedars. Sabines were <u>probably alligator juniper</u>.</p> <p>1779. Commandant General Jacobo Ugarte y Loyola, with 250 troops pursued Apaches into head of Las Animas Creek. Could have also entered Percha Watershed.</p>	<p>No permanent occupation of Percha watershed by either. Mimbres cultures gone.</p> <p>Notes that area is unsettled.</p> <p>Region "empty of humans."</p> <p>Spanish conflicts with Apaches.</p>	<p>Wilson suggests that reason for lack of Apache occupation was absence of agaves in the area.</p>

PERIOD	GEOMORPHIC PROCESSES/CLIMATE¹	SCIENCE/ARCHAEOLOGY/EXPLORATION	CIVIC ACTIVITIES	MINING, RANCHING, BUSINESS
1809		Zebulon Pike crossed near mouth of Percha Creek while a prisoner of Spanish Army.	Pike noted Apache sign and sign of Spanish pursuers in the general vicinity.	
1810-1816	Wet. 1816-“Year without a summer.”			
1817-1826	Modest drought			
1821-1850	1833-1850. Wet.		August 24, 1821 End of Spanish rule of Territory of Mexico. Region under Mexican rule.	Some incursions of American and French trappers and traders through Southwest.
		August 15, 1846. General Kearny and Army of the West camped on Percha Creek near location of present Percha Ranch en route to California.		
			Feb. 2, 1848. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Official transfer of ownership of territory to United States.	
1854			Fort Craig garrisoned. U. S. Troops begin to make excursions into Black Range, including Percha Creek.	
February, 1862			Sibley’s Confederate troops cross mouth of Percha en route to battle at Fort Craig.	
Spring 1862			Sibley defeated at Glorieta Pass. Straggling groups of Confederate soldiers crossed Percha en route back to Texas.	
Fall, 1862			Joseph Walker leads party of prospectors headed for Arizona along east front of Black Range and around south end. No real descriptions, but Apaches kept them from crossing mountain.	
1863			About 1863, Union Soldiers of the California Column patrolled Cienega de Los Apaches (Trujillo Creek). Probably entered Percha watershed.	
1877-1883	1877-1881. Modest drought.		1877-79. Other prospectors move to area, town formed. Galles, Weeks, Eliot, and Yankee draw straws for privilege of naming town. Yankee wins, calls it Hillsboro after his home town, Hillsborough, Ohio Sept. 11, 1879. Apache attack at Jaralosa Creek. Seven (eight?) miners killed while pursuing Apaches near Lake Valley 1879-1881. Period of intense warfare with Victorio and his successors. Kingston forms. First church service held with service and baptisms by E. L. Greene of Silver City. Crews children baptized.	Settlement at placers near Copper Flats. Stitzel and Dugan, accompanied by a Mexican, discover gold N. of Percha Creek. File on Opportunity and Ready Pay Mines. In June, 1879, Frank Pitcher and Dugan filed on Rattlesnake Mine. Cattle and sheep ranchers bring livestock to the area. Exact history of early ranches unknown. Growth of mining in area. Kingston area mines discovered. Reservoir built on North Percha, with pipeline to placers in Warm Springs Canyon. Black Range Mining District formed in 1881. August 19, 1881. Apaches fire on Hillsboro, Soldiers and miners pursue. Four soldiers and two (?) miners killed in Gavilan Canyon.

PERIOD	GEOLOGY ECOLOGY CLIMATE	SCIENCE/ARCHAEOLOGY/EXPLORATION	CIVIC ACTIVITIES	MINING, RANCHING, BUSINESS
1892			Courthouse built. Union Church built. ³	Active effort to drill a 3000 foot tunnel through Animas Peak by Inter-Republic Mining and Milling Company. Major William Henry Harrison Llewellyn manager. (Allan Stacey letter). Hillsboro has a smelter: the Standard Mining and Milling Company. Some ore shipped to Denver (Boston Smelting and Refining Company.) Margaret Armer-Reid begins goat ranching near Kings-ton.
1893				Townsite near Animas Peak planned. Llewellyn organizes company to pipe water from Animas River to Inter-Republic mine and mill. Hotel construction at Animas Peak begun.
1894				Mamie Richmond Mill burns down
1895				Crawford Mill working in Las Animas. Prof. Preisser open assay office in Hillsboro (Laidlow assay office). Mamie Richmond Mine closes down.
1896				Bonanza Mill working at Hillsboro
1899			May 1899. Trial of Oliver Lee and Jim Gililand for murder of Henry Fountain.	
1903-1921	Major wet period. Establishment of extensive ponderosa pine stands.			
			1906. Manuel Madrid murdered by wife, maid, and Fred Baca.	
				1909. Edward Tittmann party packed into Las Animas Creek, early November. Returned to Hillsboro Nov. 9.
	1914. June 10 flood. Sheriff Murphy drowned.			
1922			High school built	
1936			County Seat moved to Hot Springs	
1946-1961	Second most severe drought in recorded history. Widespread mortality of trees throughout SW. 1956. Major forest fire in Black Range burning dense pine stands that had been established during 1903-1921 wet pd.			
1972	Percha Creek Floods on Labor Day weekend; 4 drowned.			
1979-1994	Extended above average precip.			

*million years ago

**before present. Usually considered to indicate years before baseline date of 1950.

¹ Grissino-Mayer, H. D., C. H. Baisan, and T. W. Swetnam. 1997. A 1373 Year Reconstruction of Annual Precipitation for the Southern Rio Grande Basin.

Directorate of Environment. Natural Resources Division. Fort Bliss, Texas. 63 pp.

² Nelson, M. C. and M. Hegmon. 2010. Mimbres Lives and Landscapes. School for Advanced Research Press, Santa Fe.

³ Andrews, E. H. J. 1896. History of the Mission.

Annual membership renewals are due this month