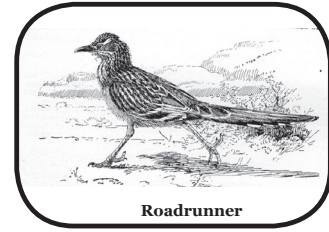
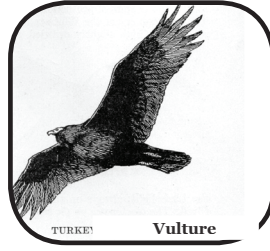


Guajalotes, Zopilotes, y Paisanos



Hillsboro Historical Society

February 2015. Volume 8 Number 1

Feature: An early and not-so-honest postmaster
by Mark Thompson



The Hillsboro Post Office was not always at its present location. The adobe building shown here was George Miller's drugstore. It later served as a general store, and is now the Hillsboro General Store Cafe. The frame shack housing the postoffice is not present in later photos, and the postoffice moved through several locations before landing in its present site next to the Masons' Lodge. Miller died in 1909, so this picture precedes that date.

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Mark Thompson,**

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From the President

Sonja Rutledge

This is an exciting time for HHS. We are still looking for a home. As most of you know, our hopes of buying the Hatcher Hotel have fallen through. One of our growing needs is for a place to house items that have important historical value for our community. Long before our society was formed, Lydia Keyes addressed this problem by developing the Black Range Museum. Her niece, June Anders has managed to keep it alive, in spite of diminishing income to support it. As president of HHS, I am in ongoing discussions with June regarding how we can assure the continued existence of the museum. In the meantime, we frequently receive significant photos, documents, and items from members of early Hillsboro families. Protecting our heritage can be an awesome responsibility.

We are proceeding with plans for an Antique festival to be held on Labor Day weekend. We hope to have vendors from all over the Southwest. This will be a fun and interesting experience for us and will provide much-needed revenue.

We had a great weekend on the 14th of February with Nichole Trushell's "Steel Beautiful" show. We hope to have similar shows in the future. Come by the shop and check it out. We have a lot of new inventory and we are always happy to have you stop in just for a chat.

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| MEETING REMINDER: HHS MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS ARE ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH. 6:30 PM AT THE HILLSBORO COMMUNITY CENTER. |
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**Nichole Trushell and some of her welded metal artwork.
See more at morganlandscapes.com**

News, Comments, and Activities

The HHS Gift Shop and the Historical Society itself both operated in the black in January. With spring coming on and warmer weather bringing more visitors to Hillsboro, we hope this represents a trend.

The Labor Day Antique Fair seems to be shaping up. So far, Barb Lovell has mailed out 41 dealer packets and response has been good.

Bob Barnes, Max Yeh, and Harley Shaw traveled to Santa Clara to interview Fred (Tony) Luna, Stretch's father. Tony is 95 years old and one of the few remaining natives of Hillsboro. He spent much of his life working in the mines around Hillsboro and Hurley. Bob video-recorded the interview and is combining it with interviews done previously by Nell Thwaite and Patty Woodruff, as well as early photos of family and local scenes. It will be available for viewing on The Black Range Rag Blog: http://www.blackrange.org/The_Black_Range_Rag/Black_Range_Rag.html.

Steve Dobrott and Harley Shaw announced that the Las Animas book, *River of Spirits*, is nearing completion. Steve gave a power point presentation to the entire Turner staff, including Ted Turner, last month. Everyone present was enthusiastic about the book. We're now seeking funding to subsidize publication. Our plans are for profits from the book to go to Hillsboro Historical Society.

The Art Auction Committee has developed a bidding process for the sealed-bid art auction. Four paintings that were donated to HHS by Jane Fonda are being offered, including two by Sioux artist Leonard Peltier (<http://www.leonardpeltier.net/theman.htm>), one by Pueblo artist Dan Lomahaf tewa (<http://www.kokopellinh.com/knowledge-base/artist-biographies/dan-viets-lomahaftewa-c-897.html>), and Bernie Granados (<http://elstudiogranados.com/artist%27s%20bio.htm>). More details are given below.

We're fortunate again in this issue to have an article by retired New Mexico attorney, Mark Thompson. Mark's roots in New Mexico have been discussed in past issues. His primary interest lies in the history of legal matters in the territory and state, but this inevitably leads him to delve into the private affairs of the individuals involved. As the following article illustrates, determining the truth about relative obscure, albeit interesting, personalities can be difficult, if not impossible. Furthermore, such research can disclose information about other, more noted or notorious, persons. The smallest news item, once explored, can lead along multiple paths of interlinked tales that can become a lifetime of study. I, for one, am happy we have people like Mark who are willing to keep digging for the facts. Ed.

Hillsboro Postmaster Convicted of Embezzlement Chooses the Death Penalty

By Mark Thompson,
Centennial, Colorado

Austin Weekly Statesman (Austin, Texas, Thursday July 21, 1887), p. 1. Attempted Suicide. Special Telegram to the Statesman.

El Paso, July 19.-- June L. Miller, formerly postmaster of Hillsboro, New Mexico, is charged sometime since by the United States authorities with opening a registered letter and appropriating the contents, which were about eight hundred dollars. Miller was tried, convicted and sentenced to two years in the pen. He appealed to the supreme court of the territory, and pending a decision was released on bond of \$7,000. He has been living in this city and recently went with one of his bondsmen to Chihuahua, and returned a few days ago. His other bondsmen, becoming uneasy, sent an officer down to New Mexico last night. When notified of his arrest, he took a large dose of morphine and soon became unconscious. He is alive, to-day, but declares he will not go back to Hillsboro alive.

"He will not go back to Hillsboro alive!" It seems fair to speculate that a fear of returning to face the populace of his adopted home town may have had more impact than a maximum possible sentence of five years in the penitentiary. How did a fairly "ordinary" embezzlement case become a lengthy criminal action and who was "June L. Miller?"

James W. White, *The History of Sierra County Post Offices* (2001), indicates that a "June L. Fuller" was appointed Postmaster for Hillsboro on December 10, 1883. He served less than a year and was succeeded by William E. Pratt on October 14, 1884. According to the criminal charge, Fuller committed the act of embezzlement of cash from the U.S. Mails on October 9, 1884. Did he resign thinking he had hit the jackpot? Was he fired because he admitted taking the money? Given that he was not formally charged by the U.S. Attorney until March 17, 1885, his departure five days after the alleged embezzlement raises more questions than provides answers.

By the time of the attempted suicide, Fuller had been tried, convicted, sentenced to three years in a federal penitentiary in Illinois, and his conviction overturned by the New Mexico Territorial Supreme Court.¹ The reversal of the conviction was based upon a technicality; the U.S. Attorney had improperly initiated the prosecution by "information," a simple pleading by the prosecution,

rather than obtaining an indictment from a grand jury. The appellate court held that embezzlement of the U.S. Mails by a postal employee was an “infamous crime,” requiring grand jury involvement. (United States v. Fuller, January 30, 1886. New Mexico Reports, Vol. 3, p. 646). Consequently, the case was not closed and Fuller apparently ended up in El Paso awaiting a retrial.

Under these circumstances, this case cried out for a “plea bargain.” We can only speculate about terms, but a guilty plea in exchange for a short prison sentence seems possible. But Fuller fought on. The U.S. Attorney obtained his indictment and the case was tried, possibly not until 1888. Fuller put forth a defense on various “technical” grounds, but was convicted again. (The second opinion does not tell us the sentence length or place of incarceration.) Fuller again appealed and the appellate court rejected his technical arguments and upheld the conviction. (United States v. Fuller, January (?), 1889. New Mexico Reports, Vol. 5, p. 80).

Although I do not believe it was his “legal name,” we can find several other references to a “June L. Fuller” in Hillsboro historical sources. For example, in September of 1883, just a month before his appointment as postmaster, the federal government placed a June L. Fuller on a tax assessment list issued in Deming, New Mexico. In *The Hillsboro, New Mexico Story* (1964), F. Stanley mentions Fuller and spells his name as “Junee,” perhaps to indicate how Stanley would pronounce the name. My guess is that “Junee” was his nickname. Obviously a nickname was good enough for the Postmaster General and the U.S. Attorney!

In fact, several members of the Fuller family had found their way to Hillsboro by the early 1880s. Using the 1885 special New Mexico territorial census as our “benchmark,” I believe that “Junee” is living with his father and mother and that a younger sister and her husband had a home next door. In that census, his father, as the enumerator for Precinct 2 in June 1885, listed himself as G.M. Fuller, age 51, born in Connecticut and his wife as M.B. Fuller, age 42, also born in Connecticut. A son, age 26, born in Connecticut is living with G.M. and M.B. and Ancestry.Com has indexed the son’s name as “Jesse L. Fuller.” I believe that “June” is a reasonable interpretation of the handwritten name and assume that G.M. would have known the name of his own son. That said, G.M. listed his daughter next door as born in Connecticut, not Massachusetts, so maybe we cannot depend on him having put the correct name for “Junee.” More on the younger daughter below,² but the question then becomes, who were the Fullers of Connecticut?

Let me inject at this point my skepticism about conclusively proving facts about the Fullers using only records posted on-line. If I was doing a genealogy on the family, I would want to have some family history for context and then hope that I could use circumstantial evidence from the public records or “secondary sources” to corroborate the family story. If I am really lucky, I will find vital records which perfectly match the family story. As you can already see, names, dates and places get “messed up.” Furthermore, there are many Americans with similar names and with birth dates, for example, which are pretty close. With that caveat, I think I might have found a match that gives us some confidence that our embezzler was in reality Julian Ledyard Fuller of Connecticut.

Using the 1885 New Mexico census names, dates of birth and place of birth, I believe that “G.M.” was in fact George M. Fuller born in 1833 in Colchester, Connecticut. (The evidence was in conflict on the middle name.) I think it is fair to say that George “married well” and that “M.B.”

was Mary Janette Batterson, born in 1836, the daughter of Simeon Seeley and Melissa Roberts Batterson of Connecticut. The earliest census I found for the Fullers was 1860 and they were living with her parents in Hartford, Connecticut. Batterson was in manufacturing and George appeared to be in his employ. The Fullers at that point had two children, Anna Seymour age 2, and Julian Ledyard born in April of 1860. I was able to confirm and add to the 1860 census facts by finding the Battersons in the *Genealogies and Biographies of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut*.

The Fullers, at least George in any event, had wanderlust and in 1865 I believe that they are the George M. Fuller family found in Northampton, Massachusetts in a special state census. As if to prove my point, we have to assume an error by the enumerator or the indexer because we have a five year old female child named "Julia" and not a five year old male named Julian.

I could not find the family in the 1870 federal census but I believe that the George M. Fuller family in Owego, New York in the 1880 federal census is our Connecticut family. George was now running an asphalt pipe company and 20 year old Julian L. Fuller is working as a clerk. The other children are a 21 year old Annie and a ten year old daughter, "Daisy," born in Massachusetts. To the everlasting frustration of genealogists, the Fullers have followed a common "custom" by identifying the child for the census enumerator with a nickname. The Windsor, Connecticut genealogy identifies a Fuller daughter born November 6, 1869, named Sarah Farnham, after her aunt, Sarah Eliza Farnham (Batterson) Griswold. But that same genealogy makes a significant mistake, at least for Hillsboro History Buffs!

The Fullers apparently moved to Hillsboro about 1882 or 1883. George listed himself in the 1885 census as a "miner," and he served on the County Commission after the creation of Sierra County in 1884. Had it not been for "June's" criminal act, the story of the Fullers in Sierra County might have been about Sarah. The Windsor genealogy says she married "Wm. S. Hopewell, 22 May, 1885." The 1885 census lists the next door neighbors to the Fullers as W.S. Hopewell, rancher, age 36, born in England and his wife, Sarah D. Hopewell, age 16, born in Connecticut. (N.B. Massachusetts?) In fact, her husband was the Englishman, and New Mexico rancher and railroad man, Willard Samuel Hopewell.

Hopewell obviously deserves, and may have received, more attention than we can give him in this article on the Fullers.³ It appears likely that the Hopewell/Fuller marriage was not perfect. W.S. obtained a divorce from Sarah on September 26, 1887. She not only did not get any money, she had to pay the court costs! According to one online genealogy, Sarah "Daisy" Fuller delivered a son on July 22, 1888, in Hartford, Connecticut, whom she named Arthur D. Hopewell. I suppose that is "possible" but the date and location in Connecticut, as well as some other "circumstantial evidence," make me question the allegation.⁴ Although she could have put up a child for adoption, making him hard to trace, she married Julius Donaldson in 1888, and they did not have a 12 year old boy in the family according to the 1900 federal census.⁵

I could not find George M. Fuller after 1885. As genealogists know, the 1890 federal census was destroyed by a fire at the Department of Commerce in 1921, adding to our research problems. Mary B. Fuller outlived George and lived with Sarah in her later years. I believe I found a "match" in the 1900 federal census, the family of Julius S. Donaldson of Brazoria, Texas. The wife of Julius Donaldson is Sarah F. Donaldson, age 31, born in Massachusetts. The "mother-in-law" is Mary B. Fuller, age 64, widowed, born in Connecticut.

What about Julian? Given his use of the nickname “June” for so many years, I am hesitant to make hard and fast conclusions about his post 1889 life. I found that a Julian L. Fuller, born about 1864 in Connecticut, served in the Spanish-American War as a hospital clerk and was discharged “without honor” in Havana on February 20, 1899. It is easy to believe that a person with a criminal record might get a dishonorable discharge from the Army. Finally, I found a Julian L. Fuller, born 1861 in Connecticut, in the 1920 federal census for Jersey City, New Jersey. He was employed as a Sexton at an Episcopal Church parish!⁶

*Mark Thompson’s great-grandfather,
Nicholas Galles, served as the first postmaster for Hillsboro, March 7, 1879 to December 16, 1880.*

¹ The Territorial Supreme Court was a special federal court with judges appointed to four year terms by the President of the United States. The judges were assigned to judicial districts where they resided and served as trial judges. They also sat together as the appellate court, the Territorial Supreme Court. (The judge whose case was being reviewed was excluded from the panel considering his case.) They were also unique in that they handled both federal cases and what we would today call “state law cases.” Their appellate court written opinions, covering both federal and “state” law, were published in the New Mexico Law Reports.

² Although she does not seem to have made it to Hillsboro, the older daughter, Anna Seymour Fuller, does appear to have come to New Mexico from Arizona about 1890. According to an on-line genealogy, Anna married William E. Pratt of Vermont in 1882. (I was unable to confirm that event but it could be consistent with a move by other members of the family to Hillsboro in 1882.) The Pratts are found in the 1900 federal census in Gallup, N.M., and it shows a child born in New Mexico in 1891. They are in Albuquerque in the 1910 federal census. (In every census this Anna S. Pratt indicates that her father was born in Maine.) The match with our “Fullers” is best shown on the “Find A Grave” website for her death, August 10, 1938, and burial in Madison, Wisconsin, August 12, 1938. The cemetery records indicate that her father was George Fuller and her mother was Mary Batterson.

³ For a short summary of the Hopewell life in New Mexico, see Howard Bryan’s “Off The Beaten Path” in the Albuquerque Tribune, August 11, 1955, p. 13.

⁴ Hopewell married Anna L. West in Hillsboro in 1892 and they had two sons. When W.S. died in 1919 in Albuquerque, he made a specific bequest to Jean Hopewell Barka. Jean was born June 8, 1878, in Denver, and, according to her burial information, was the daughter of W.S. Hopewell and Ella Arbackle (Arbuckle?). Although I have not found specific evidence of their marriage, divorce, etc., I did find that a Mr. & Mrs. W.S. Hopewell were in attendance at an important social function in Denver in March of 1877. (“Mitchell Guards,” Rocky Mountain News, March 17, 1877, p. 4, col. 3.) Jean’s relationship is supported by a 1936 quiet title action brought against persons who might have had some legal interest in the Albuquerque railroad property originally developed by W.S. Hopewell. (“Legal Notice,” Albuquerque Journal, July 23, 1936, p. 9, col. 7.) Although it appears to be coincidental, Jean Barka lived in Hillsboro for much of the period 1910-1940 and died in Chandler, Arizona in 1942.

⁵ After the death of her second husband, in 1912, Sarah allegedly married Claude C. Cunningham. She died in 1956, in Houston, Texas according to the same online genealogy referred to above.

⁶ With special thanks to Craig Springer and Harley Shaw for inspiration and observations.

Kingston Myths

Craig Springer

I was glad to see this newsletter recently take up the topic of Kingston's population. I came to further appreciate Kingston's history, learning that our 1894 Hillsboro home was made from wood of the razed studio of Kingston photographer, J.C. Burge. I've researched and published on Kingston's demographics. In short, I learned that reports written after Kingston was abandoned by silver miners (ca.1893) often greatly exaggerate what transpired during the town's heyday of 1882-1893.

Kingston was no doubt a busy place; hundreds of people flocked to the new El Dorado early on, but they didn't stay. The Albuquerque Morning Journal, Nov. 14, 1882 reported only 30 men employed at all the mines. The territorial census of 1885 counted 329 souls there and in outlying camps, combined. And it was a pluralistic place with Spanish and Chinese names appearing. That census snapshot reveals 12 merchants and eight saloon keepers. Kingston did in fact swell; the 1890 census counted 633 in town and another 816 in the mining district (the census noted 37 Chinese people residing in Sierra County).



Undated photograph looking west across early Kingston

New Mexico Magazine got it right in 1935, reporting that Kingston reached its pinnacle at 1,500 residents. N.W. Ayers' newspaper annuals published through Kingston's life span corroborate census records, business gazetteers, and other observers. Newspaper editors reported to Ayers their reach and population served. The oft-repeated statement that three newspapers published in Kingston is wrong: 11 papers published in Kingston over a 10-year period, but never in competition. Most made runs that lasted only weeks before moving on.

New Mexico Magazine got it wrong last year reporting that Mark Twain and President Cleveland visited Kingston. Twain biographers David Fears and Gary Scharnhorst say he never set foot in New Mexico. A prankster signed President Cleveland's name on a hotel register on the day the president was with his wife in Baltimore, according to The Washington Critic. The newspaper also reported who he was meeting following day at the White House. As best we can tell, the president who was against silver coinage never visited the territory—a visit that surely would have generated big news in a land clamoring for statehood.



Newspapers were ephemeral in early Kingston. We don't know if this one ever moved inside or not

Another myth was repeated in New Mexico Magazine recently, that Percha Bank held \$7 million (\$9 billion in today's dollars) in silver. The vault probably isn't big enough in the first place. The U.S. Geological Survey reported in 1904 that up to that time, the Kingston mines had produced that amount of mineral wealth. That's also correctly referenced the 1935 New Mexico Magazine story.

This to me is most curious: why did these myths rise around Kingston and not Hillsboro or Lake Valley? All three were raucous places, and nearly equally populated (though Lake Valley was smaller) at their pinnacle. And what is in our human nature that makes us hang on to an article of faith—to want to read between the lines rather than read what's on the lines. Is the legend more fun? Are we driven by boosterism?

Visit hillsboryhistory.blogspot.com and you can read for yourself the research materials from late 1882 onward. These include newspaper stories, letters, census records, indices and photos.



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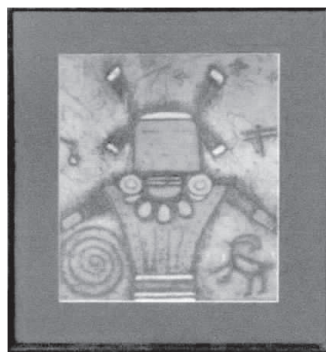
For the Art, Science and Literature of Nature



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SEALED BID ART AUCTION

Hillsboro Historical Society is offering four original paintings by three well-known Native American Artists. These paintings were donated to HHS by Jane Fonda. The four paintings are by Leonard Peltier (Anishinabe/Lakota); Dan Viets Lomahaftewa (Hope/Choctaw); and Bernie Granados, Jr. (Apache/Zapotec). All proceeds will go to Hillsboro Historical Society.



The paintings can be seen at the HHS Museum Store. Details and forms for bidding can be acquired at the store or by contacting Larry Cosper at camicos@windstream.net or 575-895-5552.

MUSEUM STORE AND EDUCATION



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

THE CURRENT DISPLAY AT THE EDUCATION
CENTER FOCUSES ON APACHE CULTURE
OF OUR REGION. IT WAS PROVIDED BY
ARCHAEOLOGIST CHRIS ADAMS OF THE
BLACK RANGE RANGER DISTRICT OF THE
GILA NATIONAL FOREST.

Historic Buildings--Hillsboro Post Office and Masonic Hall.



1918



2014

The building housing the Hillsboro post office was built prior to 1903. It was owned by Mason A. J. Hirsch. The Odd Fellows Lodge met upstairs. The Masons first met there in 1903. Many of the women and girls of Hillsboro sat out the disastrous 1914 flood that hit the town in the upper floor. Sheriff Murphy was trying to reach the women, when he was swept away and drowned. The building withstood the flood. Several businesses occupied the bottom floor over the years--printer, bakery, dry goods store. The postoffice shared space with some of them until the 1960s, when it moved into its present location. For many years, the only access to the upper floor was via the outside stairway.

MEMBERSHIP

OUR MEMBERSHIPS ARE ON A FEBRUARY 1 TO JANUARY 31 BASIS. ANY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS WE RECEIVE AFTER NOVEMBER 15 WILL BE CONSIDERED 2015 MEMBERSHIPS VALID FROM FEB 1, 2015 TO JANUARY 31, 2016.

The Hillsboro Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to collect, preserve and share the history and artifacts of the Hillsboro, Kingston and Lake Valley communities of New Mexico. Members may choose to participate in many aspects of the Society's activities, including fundraising, collections and conservation, oral histories, education and interpretation, special events and programs. Member benefits include the quarterly newsletter, priority registration for lectures, programs and field trips. 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

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