

Missoula County Sheriffs Buried in the Missoula City Cemetery



This booklet was compiled and written by a former Missoula City Cemetery staff member and, as a whole, was not researched or written by a professional historian. The stories were compiled over the course of several years from information found in cemetery records, funeral records, obituaries, newspaper archives, details shared by family members, and public documents from Missoula County Records Management, Missoula County Clerk and Recorder, Missoula Public Library, Mansfield Library collections, and various archival websites. The information in this booklet is in no way complete and lacks most attributions for source documents or family-provided stories. Individuals who donated research and/or photos have been acknowledged to the extent possible.

Photos and historical data sources include retired Sheriff's Deputy Robert Rafferty, Missoula County Records Management – Marcia Porter, archived articles from the *Missoulian*, the Missoula Public Library, the Mansfield Library, the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, the City of Missoula, Missoula City Cemetery records, Bonner School & Jack L. Demmons photo collection, *Missoulian* reporter Kim Briggeman, historical researcher James Sims, *Missoula The Way It Was* by Lenora Koelbel with Stan Cohen, *A Guide to Historic Missoula* written by Allan James Mathews, Missoula Public Library's Paulette Parpart, and historical researcher Jack L. Demmons.

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Missoula City Cemetery
2000 Cemetery Road
Missoula, Montana 59802
Phone: 406-552-6070
Email: cemetery@ci.missoula.mt.us
Website: www.ci.missoula.mt.us/91/Cemetery

Email staff to:

- Request information from burial records for genealogy purposes.
- Contribute life histories and photos. Note: Items submitted to the cemetery become public record and may be published on our website, guidebooks, or used in future tours.
- Inquire about grave or niche purchases, annual flower boxes or beds, and monument services.
- Arrange for future or at need interments.

On our website you'll find:

- Interment and memorial registries and maps of grave locations.
- Biographies, tour guidebooks, photos, and links to video presentations (as available.)
- Grave and niche purchase information, fees, and cemetery regulations.
- Services offered, such as monument cleaning and leveling, site repair, annual flower beds and boxes.

Additional cemetery tour guidebooks available:

- **Stories and Stones.** Stories about local historical figures interred in the Missoula City Cemetery.
- **Missoula Mayors.** Twenty-six stories of Missoula's leadership and development as a municipality.

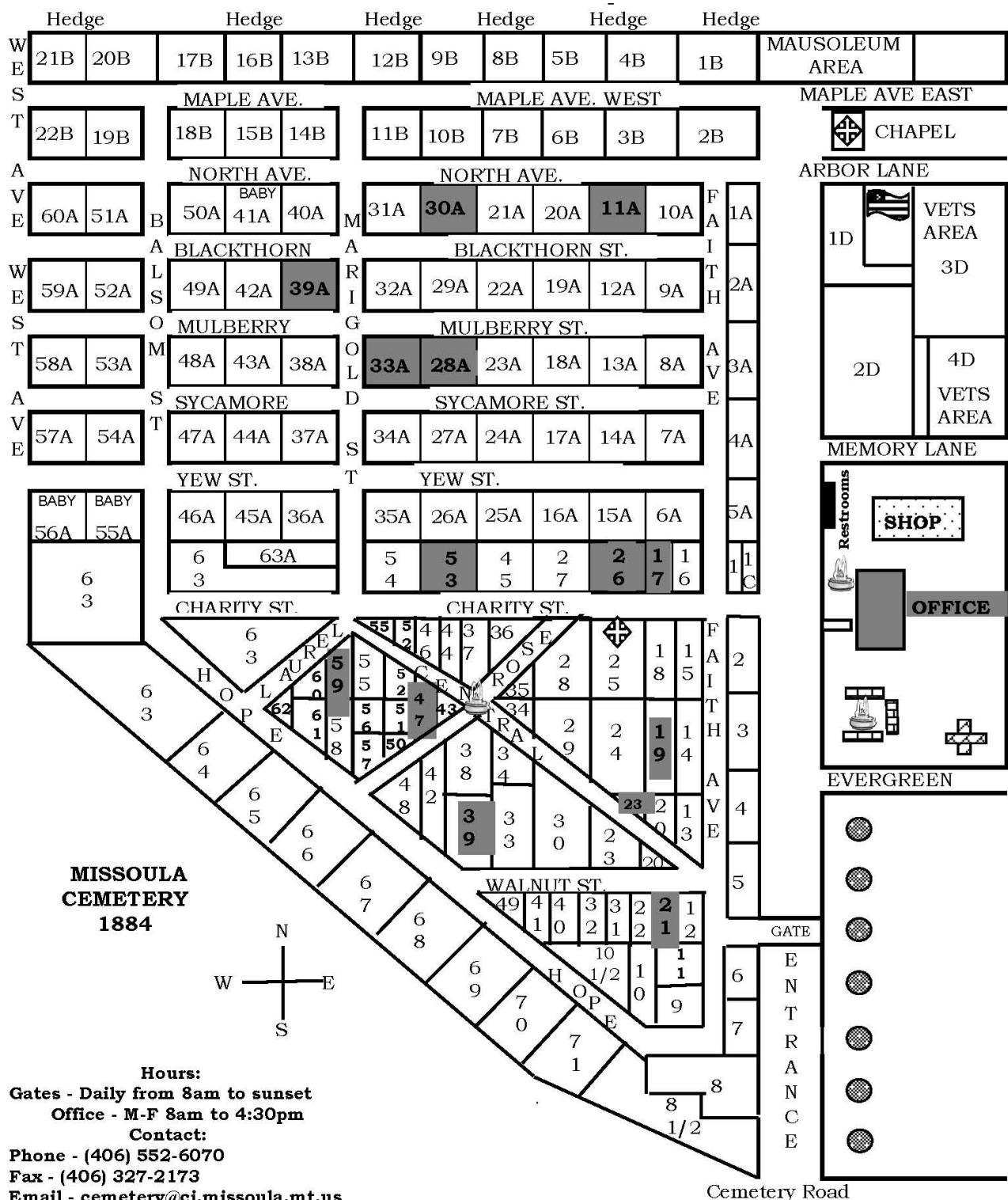
Video story presentations (as available):

MCAT has provided online video presentations of stories. Visit the Missoula City Cemetery website for the link.

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Sheriff Burial Sites Map



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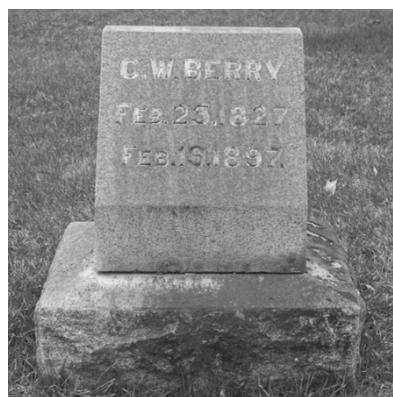
59 Thompson, J

Charles William Berry



- **14th Missoula County Sheriff.** Conducted first legal execution.
- **Born.** February 25, 1827, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to William and Olive (Lock) Berry
- **Nicknames.** “Old Bill” or “Uncle Billy”
- **Married.** Married twice: first wife’s information is unknown, and second wife was Annie Davis. They married in 1862. She died in 1867 when their youngest child was only four months old.
- **Died.** February 18, 1897. It is believed he died of natural causes, but the place of death was not certain.
- Charles’s father, William, and grandfather, Isaiah Berry, were soldiers in the war of 1812. Isaiah was a Whig in the political circle and served many years in the New Hampshire Legislature. William was a farmer all his life.
- Charles had little education. He attended school only during the winter when he was not required to assist on the family farm.
- **1849.** When Charles was 22, he traveled by ship through the Isthmus of Panama to San Francisco, California, to join the gold rush. He succeeded in placer mining approx. \$2,000 from above Coloma in less than a year.
- **1851 - 1861.** Charles continued mining in surrounding areas, mainly in the Siskiyou Mountains. He also carried freight throughout the entire northwest. These pack trips were treacherous in many ways. One night while on watch, he was warming by the fire when he was said to have been fired upon by a Native American, who shot an arrow that passed through his beard just below his chin. He dropped down in the grass and crawled away from the fire. There were no further attempts on his life that night.
- **1862.** On a trip in Idaho, Charles was robbed of \$1,119. He rounded up a posse and chased the robbers into Walla Walla, Washington, where they were caught. The local sheriff then attempted to transfer the robbers to Florence, Idaho, where they would be tried. Residents of Lewiston, Idaho, feared other members of the robbers’ gang would attempt a rescue, so the citizens seized the robbers from the sheriff and immediately hung them. Fearing loss of his rescued money, Charles high-tailed it out of the area.
- **1864.** Charles’s adventures took him to Alder Gulch, Montana. He spent time mining and trapping throughout the state. He began a venture whipsawing lumber and making underground drains to bring water into Bear Gulch during the winter. After bringing his wife and child over from Walla Walla, he was offered an interest in the “Fighting Mining Claim” on the Salmon River. He and five other men built a log fort around the mine for safety, and after one year, \$16,000 was split between the six owners.
- **1868.** Appointed Deputy Sheriff in Lewiston, Idaho, by his brother, J.G. Berry.
- **1869.** Arrived in Cedar Creek, Missoula County. He again engaged in making lumber with a whipsaw. He began farming at the mouth of Cedar Creek. He employed 20 Native Americans to whom he paid \$1 per day to work his crops. The harvest was sold to area miners.

- **1882.** Elected as the 14th Missoula County Sheriff. During this time, he served as both Sheriff and Assessor for the county, which covered an area 200 by 300 miles wide. Upon his election to Sheriff, he had to resign the other six positions he held: postmaster, mail carrier, notary public, road supervisor, and coroner at Superior, Montana.
- **August 16, 1883 – 1st Legal Execution.** Missoula County's first legal execution was held by Sheriff Berry. A man from China named of Ah Yung was hung in the Missoula jail yard and was witnessed by 100 people. Mr. Yung was charged with attempting to blow up the tent of the Chinese paymaster at Horse Plains and attempting to rob the inmates. Mr. Yung also shot and killed the Chinese man who owned the tent and wounded his own brother, who tried to follow him. To the end, Ah Yung maintained his innocence and did not understand the judicial system in this country.
- **1884.** After serving as Sheriff, Charles purchased 160 acres in the Flathead Valley and began raising hay and stock.
- **1887.** Back in Missoula, Charles was elected county assessor and served three terms.
- Politically, Charles was a lifelong Democrat. Socially, he served as Master Mason in the Masonic fraternity.
- **1896.** Charles Berry was a very special character as noted in the local paper in 1896. A birthday celebration was given at every establishment throughout town with everyone participating in the festivities. Regarding his actual age, the Montana Silverite reported, “History does not state how old Old Bill is, though several eye witnesses live today who saw him alight from the ark when it landed on Mount Jumbo. It is conceded, however, that he was here in the year 1 B.C. and his many friends are willing to let it go at that.”
- Charles Berry would proudly exhibit a watch that he had carried for 25 years as a souvenir of his early official experience. The watch had been purchased with stamps embezzled from the government—so he told it.



Grave 7 – Lot 3 – Block 17

Charles Berry died prior to the City of Missoula's ownership of the Missoula Cemetery. Cemetery records during that time show only the name of the decedent, burial location, and date of death. In many instances, the information is scarce and incomplete.



Daniel J. Heyfron

- **16th Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** May 3, 1845, in Black Rock, Ireland. He came to the United States when he was five years old and was raised by his grandmother in Iowa.
- **Nickname.** “Father Heyfron”
- **Married.** Josephine Thomas in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on November 8, 1870. Daniel was 25, and Josephine was 15 years old. Josephine was from Burlington, Vermont. They had ten children, five of which died in infancy.
- **Died.** August 29, 1934, of leukemia in Missoula, Montana.
- **Civil War.** Daniel was in the Iowa regiment during the Civil War. After the war, he traveled west to engage in the cattle business.
- **1867 - 1869.** Daniel followed the building of the Northern Pacific Railroad and established meat markets in all the towns along its route, finally ending up in Corinne, Utah.
- **1871.** After attempting a stint at mining in southern California, Daniel resumed his butcher business in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Here he became a prominent dealer in horses and cattle. When the Utah Northern road was built through Montana, he continued opening shops in towns along the way.
- **1882.** Daniel located his butcher business in Missoula at the same location where the Missoula Mercantile sat. He set up his family residence on Front Street. Their furniture was brought by a pack team from Dillon to Missoula. A piano narrowly escaped going over a grade during the trip.
- **1886.** Elected as the 16th Missoula County Sheriff. He was so well known for his efficiency in capturing and bringing to justice criminals who ravaged the area that he remained in office for four years. A majority of these “criminals” were area Native Americans who were troublesome for the prospectors in the mountains. The sale of whiskey to the Native people also produced regular disturbances. Sheriff Heyfron “frowned” on all whiskey sales or trades with the Native Americans.
- **Jail house history.** The existing jail in 1866 was built using 10-inch square hewn timbers for the walls, ceiling, and floors. There was one window made of iron bars and a “good substantial” door well secured with a good lock. The building was well pinned or spiked together and covered with dirt. The Sheriff was allowed \$4 per day for “dieting prisoners.” The Sheriff was ordered to find a place for a physically handicapped man to stay at the County’s expense. The County paid \$8 per week for this man’s room and board. The Sheriff was also allowed to use prisoners as labor if they were suitably guarded. A new jail was approved in 1870 and was built with 10-foot high cells. It had heavy timbers on top and was covered with shingles, and it was to be kept separate from the courthouse. The cells were 9-feet by 9-feet or 7-feet by 9-feet and had barred openings in iron doors for heat and light. The hall had one iron-grated window with a shutter. The walls were 30 inches thick and made of stones, and the floor was 3-inch thick planks with stones between joists. In 1872, the Grand Jury ordered more ventilation in the building “to destroy the stench.” This led to the condemning of the water closet and providing individual chamber

pots for inmates, which they had to clean themselves. Finally, in 1888, a new jailhouse was built on the north corner of the courthouse square and was constructed of brick and had a furnace for heat. The new jail was to be a combination jail and Sheriff's house with four steel cells on each of the two floors.

- **1887.** County Commissioners lowered the annual salary of the Sheriff from \$1,500 to \$1,200 citing, "the Sheriff and his deputies are not busy enough to render the higher wage."
- **1888.** Sheriff Heyfron lost and then won the election for Sheriff after taking his case to the Montana Supreme Court. It seems the ballots consisted of various versions of his name such as "Daniel Heyfron" or "Dan Heyfron" instead of his legal filing name of "Daniel J. Heyfron." The official recorders only counted the votes that had his exact legal filing name and disregarded the other write-ins. It was also noted that the official recorders moved the election to a home where whiskey consumption contributed to the outcome of the election. Of course, the County Commissioners knew nothing about these events until after the fact.
- Daniel owned a large quarry on the south side of the Missoula River. Most of the prominent buildings in Missoula, including the University of Montana campus, were built using the stone from his quarry. His company did the excavating for the original Missoula commercial buildings, including the First National Bank block, the Hammond building, and the Florence Hotel.
- Daniel was the driving force in building the big irrigation ditch on the south side of the Missoula River. The ditch stretched seven miles, from the Bandmann Ranch into Missoula.
- Daniel was deeply invested in teaming and freighting. He employed a large number of men.
- Politically, Daniel was a lifelong Democrat. Socially, he was a member of the Oddfellows and Masonic Lodges. In 1897, his son, Daniel Jr., scored the first touchdown for the newly organized University of Montana Grizzly football team.
- **1900.** Daniel invested in mining in the Blackfoot Valley. He maintained this investment until a few years before his death.
- **1902.** Elected County Treasurer.
- **1930.** A 60th wedding anniversary celebration was held at the Heyfron home on East Front Street. This was the original home they built when first arriving in Missoula in 1882. Additions were added over the years, but the home was their only residence in Missoula.
- **Horse Breeding.** Daniel was a great lover of horses and was known as one of the greatest breeders of thoroughbreds in Montana. One horse, named Diablo, was never defeated.

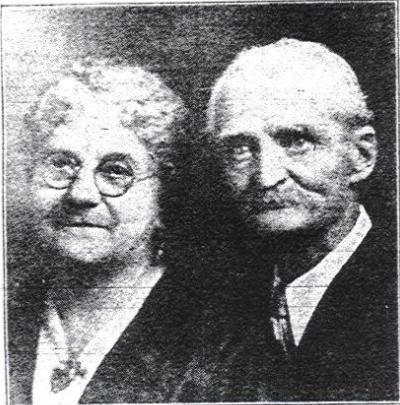
Daniel J. Heyfron was buried in the Heyfron family plots alongside his wife Josephine and two of his children: Albert and Josie. A headstone was never placed for Daniel or for the other family members. This is quite odd as they were such an affluent and prominent Missoula family. Above shows Daniel's temporary cement marker. This was recovered under layers of sod on the gravesite.



Grave 1 – Lot 6 – Block 26

The following are from research at the Missoula Public Library or were submitted by Heyfron family members:

MR. AND MRS. DAN J. HEYFRON, SR., celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary Saturday, November 8, with a dinner given at their home on East Front street.



—Photograph by McIander.

*60th Wedding Anniversary photo
from the Missoulian*



Heyfron family house on Front Street in 1895

William H. Houston



- **17th and 29th Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **1853—Birth.** May 17, 1853, in Logansport, Cass County, Indiana.
- **1880—Marriage.** Married Mary Quigley on April 8, 1880, in Omaha, Nebraska. They had one child, Harvey A. Houston.
- William received a very limited education. Experience served as his education. When he was a young lad, four of his brothers were called to fight in the Civil War, leaving William to tend to business at home.
- In his early years, William was a guard on a stagecoach from Cheyenne, Wyoming, to Deadwood, South Dakota. He obtained this job on the reference of Wild Bill Hickok. Years later it was said that William pistol-whipped Wild Bill after an altercation in town and ran him out of Missoula.

- **1878.** His first job was with the railroad as a brakeman on the Panhandle. He traveled west with the railroad working his way up until he was promoted to conductor of passenger trains.
- **1883.** When the Northern Pacific railroad was built, he followed it to Missoula. At that time, he ventured into the hotel business by purchasing the Grand Central Hotel.
- **1885.** Northern Pacific offered him the conductor position, so he ended his hotel business and served in that position until 1889.
- **1889.** William was elected as the 17th Missoula County Sheriff. The unfortunate criminals who shot at the Sheriff received a direct hit with each bullet that left his gun.
- **1892.** Sheriff Houston was responsible for the arrest and hanging of John Burns. Burns murdered Maurice Higgins. On the night of August 14, 1892, one of Missoula's worst fires broke out in the main area of downtown off Front Street. At that time, all the wooden buildings were lined with boardwalks which added fuel to the fire. Building after building was destroyed. Practically the entire male population turned out to battle the blaze. One of the volunteers was Maurice Higgins, the son of Missoula's co-founder, C.P. Higgins. In the early morning after the fires had been squelched, the men were gathered on a corner surveying the remains.



Meanwhile, John Burns was outside the local saloon down the street from this gathering. Burns and his partner had recently robbed a jewelry store in Spokane, Washington. The loot was not being distributed as Burns wished, so he came downtown expecting to be able to easily shoot his partner in the crowd during the fire and take the loot for himself. Unfortunately, he didn't find the man he was searching for until after the fire and the crowds were gone. Burns shot the man, hitting him in the side, and immediately shot again. This time, however, he hit young Maurice Higgins in the forehead. Burns fled, but Sheriff Houston caught him a short time later. Maurice died early the next day. Burns was tried, found guilty, and hanged on December 16, 1892. Case closed. Or was it? The *Missoulian* reported on December 31, 1892, "The Body of Burns is Not in the Grave." The story goes on to say that his body

stands in the “mystic chamber of the Hijis at their hall on the Eastside.” The reporter alone, supposedly, entered the strange place to find what he described as “Burns’s body embalmed and fastened to a steel rod to hold it upright. Scalpel marks were clearly evident,” stated the reporter. This report was never verified according to another article by Deane Jones, which ran in the *Missoulian* on January 31, 1971. Mr. Jones ran a follow up article on May 21, 1971, when a man from Cummings, North Dakota, claimed to have a pair of moccasins made from the skin of this same John Burns.

- **Kootenai hangings.** A group of four Kootenai tribe members were accused of committing numerous murders in the region during 1887 - 1889. They were all captured by Sheriff Houston and hung at the same time on the same gallows. All four declared their innocence until the end. This was the only recorded multiple hanging of its kind. Those gallows now sit at the Fort Missoula Historic Museum.



(Left to Right: Pierre Paul, Pascale, Lala See, and Antley)

- When a man named Lamb robbed the Northern Pacific of \$5,000 and escaped to Mexico, Sheriff Houston trailed him. He then hired a Mexican to chase Lamb across the International Bridge right into Sheriff Houston’s hands. The man was brought back to Missoula for trial.
- **1894 - 1920.** He served with the United States Land Office and as City Commissioner. He was applauded for reducing taxpayer burden by trimming expenses in these offices. William claimed to have cut the \$20,000 per year cost of running the City Police Department down to a trim \$9,000 per year and simultaneously collected \$9,400 in fines for the same year.
 - **1920.** William was elected as the 29th Missoula County Sheriff. This term lasted only eleven months because he was removed from office and charged with incompetency and connivance with bootleggers, and his deputies were accused of making moonshine.
 - Upon retirement, William was instrumental in the continued development of Missoula. He partnered with C.P. Higgins and T.L. Greenough to build the Union Block.
 - William was one of wealthiest men in Missoula. He invested heavily in real estate throughout the Missoula area.
 - Politically, William was a progressive Republican. Socially, he was a member of the Masonic Lodge.
- A few days before his death, William Houston was quoted as telling an old friend, “I made the greatest cleanup the West ever had. I hanged five men, shot one on the street, and sent more than one hundred men over the road to the penitentiary for different crimes.”
- **1937—Death.** April 14, 1937, of prostate disease in Missoula, Montana.



William H. Houston was buried in the Houston family plots alongside his wife Mary, his son Harvey, and his brother John Allen. Another family member by the name of A.J. Houston is buried there also but the exact relationship lineage has not been determined. Researched by Willis Hintz, retired Captain in the Missoula County Sheriff Department.



Grave 5 – Lot 12 – Block 53



Harry W. Thompson

- **22nd Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** Around 1867 in New Brunswick, Canada.
- **Married.** Wife's name is unknown. They had one daughter.
- **Died.** June 1, 1924, of emphysema in Missoula, Montana.

- **1886.** Harry came to Missoula, Montana and began working at the Missoula Mercantile Company.
- **1902.** Elected as the 22nd Missoula County Sheriff.
- **1904.** Sheriff Thompson held the infamous hanging of Louis H. Mott, who was accused of killing his wife, Leah, on January 4, 1903. Mott was a longtime Missoula laundryman whose business was quite profitable in its early years. Mott became addicted to morphine and whiskey and would "disappear" from town at times. His absences grew more extended. Finally, during one such extended absence, Mrs. Mott sold the laundry business and all their property. Upon his return, Mr. Mott became enraged. That evening, when the couple sat down to dinner in their apartment, the drugs and whiskey took control. He argued loudly with his wife. Many neighbors witnessed the scene. Mrs. Mott ran down the stairs to get away from him, but he followed her. Before she reached the bottom of the staircase, he shot her four times in the back. A fifth bullet hit another female tenant from the apartment building. On her deathbed, Mrs. Mott begged for the care of her baby daughter and made an appeal for mercy on her husband as it was the drugs and alcohol that made him do these things. During the trial, Mott was described in the local papers as "as weird a joker as was ever sentenced to death." Deputy sheriffs noted what a pitiful site it was to watch Mott's withdrawal from the drugs and alcohol as he had many hallucinations and begged wildly to be delivered from his state and his awful deed. Upon being sentenced to hang, a Missoula lawyer named Frank Woody stepped in and made an appeal to the Supreme Court, requesting clemency. Governor Joseph Dixon denied all appeals. By this time, Mott was "dried out" from his addictions. Prior to his execution, he addressed the crowd to say a prayer. He noted that he "held no malice" towards anyone associated with the imminent taking of his life as he would finally be able to rest in peace. Mott also issued a statement to the local newspaper proclaiming his innocence and sense of honor. Per his request, this article was not published until after his hanging. Sheriff Thompson erected a 15-foot high temporary stockade for this hanging to keep all gawkers out. There were 150 private invitations sent for this execution. Immediately after the hanging, Sheriff Thompson ordered the stockade torn down and personally burned the rope.
- After serving as Sheriff, Harry returned to work at the Missoula Mercantile Company.
- Politically, Harry was a Republican. Socially, Harry was a prominent member of the Elks Lodge.

Harry Thompson was buried in a single grave. It is not known where his wife or daughter were buried.



Davis Graham

- **23rd and 25th Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** April 20, 1869, in Charlotte County, New Brunswick.
- **Married.** Frances F. York, and they had two children.
- **Died.** June 9, 1952, of heart failure in Missoula, Montana.
- **1890.** Davis arrived in Missoula.
- **1904.** Elected as the 23rd Missoula County Sheriff.
- **1906.** Sheriff Graham arrested A.E. Primm for “shamefully whipping” a horse from the Albee Stables. Primm was “beastly intoxicated at the time.” Judge Phillips fined Primm \$24 with a warning that next time, “he would not get off so easily.”
- **1908.** Elected as the 25th Missoula County Sheriff. Missoula’s Great Flood of 1908 happened after 33 days of nonstop rain. The Clark Fork River swept away the Higgins Ave. Bridge, causing major devastation.
- **1933 - 1939.** Served as County Commissioner.
- Throughout his life, Davis Graham also worked as a contractor and was the Vice President of the State Welfare Commission.
- Socially, he was a life member of Elks, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, and Modern Woodmen of America.

Davis Graham was buried in the Graham family plots. His relationship to the other people buried in those sites has yet to be confirmed. Only a temporary cement marker notes the sight because a permanent monument was never placed on his grave. Little information has been found on Davis.



Grave 5 – Lot 10 – Block 23

Photos below from *Missoula the Way It Was* by Lenora Koelbel with Stan Cohen:



Water sweeps over the Milltown Dam.



A temporary foot bridge was erected in place of the Higgins Ave. Bridge.



Richard J. Whitaker

- **27th Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** In Bath, England.
- **Married.** Alice. They had eleven children.
- **Died.** August 21, 1943, of heart disease in Missoula, Montana.
- **1914.** Elected as the 27th Missoula County Sheriff.
- At age 19, Richard left his father's bank in England, where he worked as a bookkeeper. He boarded a ship and arrived in Canada. At that time, he worked as a cook in a logging camp before taking up freighting for the Hudson Bay Company.

- He was the first white man to pitch a tent and take up homesteading just south of where the town of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada now stands. During this time, there conflicts with the Native peoples. Richard bore scars on his leg from what was said to have been a poisoned arrow was lodged. After a very cold, harsh winter, Richard decided to pull out in the spring and head for Montana.
- Richard entered Montana on the highline above where the town of Great Falls, Montana, now sits. At that time, the area was barren of civilization. Richard continued westward, and when he came to the Blackfoot Trail, he followed it along the river into the town of Missoula, Montana. At this time, the only structures were located at Hellgate Trading Post where Capt. C.P. Higgins had set up camp.
- Again, adventure call Richard, so he packed up his things to head for the West Coast. Shortly after starting out, he met Isick Pauline, who had a homestead and needed of some help breaking ground. Richard and Isick became fast friends. Richard stayed to assist Isick in preparing his land. In the end, Richard decided to stay in the area permanently.
- Richard set up a homestead in the South Hills area of Missoula. Richard was known to have built the first fence on that hill. Legend has it that three different mornings when he awoke, the poles of his new fence had been pulled right out of the ground. Each time, he replaced the poles and repaired the fence. On the fourth morning of repairing fence, a group of rather "rough" men came riding up on horseback. Richard showed no fear as he believed that only cowards stuck together that closely. The men ordered him to remove the fence as it interfered with their business. Richard was fully aware of what their "business" was—cattle rustling—and he refused. This was his land, and he was going to do as he pleased. The men then threatened him and wanted to know what he was going to do about it. Looking them directly in the eyes, he quietly told them that if this happened, "it would be a case for the coroner, not the sheriff." The men left and did not return. Richard replaced the fence.
- Richard bought and operated the first threshing machine to be used in the area between Stevensville and Frenchtown.
- **Whitaker Drive.** Around the turn of the century, Richard built Whitaker Drive so that he could get the thresher machine up the hill to his home.
- **1914.** Elected as the 27th Missoula County Sheriff. He served for two years. At this time, the county line extended north of Pablo, Montana, and the roads consisted of crooked trails.

- Sheriff Whitaker lost his bid for a second term over a complicated incident involving a woman shooting a man in his car. He had no control over this, but the event cost him votes and he lost the election.



Grave 7 – Lot 6 – Block 19

Richard was buried in the Whitaker family plots alongside his wife, Alice, and many family members.



John "Jim" Thomas Green

- **28th and 31st Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** April 13, 1866, in Crab Orchard, Kentucky.
- **Married.** Olive Tillman on August 16, 1897, in Florence, Montana. (The Tillman family were Montana pioneers in the Bitterroot Valley.)
- **Died.** February 2, 1943, of heart disease in Missoula, Montana.
- At 18 years old, Jim decided to head west to Spokane, Washington, to seek his fortune. His first job was to drive oxen teams in the lumber camps.
- **1887.** Jim arrived in Missoula, Montana, where he worked in the logging business throughout the area. He operated a mill at Taft near the Idaho-Montana border. This was during a boom time, and the St. Paul Pass tunnel on the Milwaukee Railroad was being built.

- **1907.** Jim sold the mill and came back to Missoula.
- **1908.** Jim and Lou Ellinghouse bought the Charles H. Marsh livery barn and operated this business for seven years. The popularity of the automobile finally brought this business to a close in 1915.
- **1916.** Elected as the 28th Missoula County Sheriff. Sheriff Green was widely known, well liked, and emanated a genial nature of fairness. Legend referred to his being known from "Tin-Cup to Taft." This references the Tin-Cup basin in the south end of the Bitterroot Valley to the Taft ghost town in the west end of Mineral County.
- **1919.** A group of prisoners attempted to dig their way out of the jail and escape. The jail, which had been built in 1889, was sorely in need of repair. A group of male prisoners used their bare hands to pry away a piece of the broken cement floor and began tunneling. A back section of the open area had a "blind wall" that sat a few feet away from the outer walls of the jail. This was the location of the tunnel. One day, officers investigated noises in the open jail room and found the men within a few minutes of escaping. Prisoners were then locked in individual cells. The County Commissioners ordered the jail repairs to be completed immediately instead of waiting until spring.
- **1923.** Elected as the 31st Missoula County Sheriff.
- **Retirement.** After serving one term as Sheriff, Jim went to work for the Forest Service.
- Politically, Jim was a lifelong Democrat. Socially, he was a member of the Christian Church, the Elks Lodge, and Eagles Lodge.

Jim was buried alongside his wife, Olive. Also in the grave are the ashes of Henry W. Green, whose relationship to the couple is currently unknown.



Grave 6 – Lot 15 – Block 28A

George A. Cole



- **30th Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** August 11, 1877, in San-Lac County, Michigan, to John M. and Susan (Seder) Cole. John Cole was a Union soldier in the Civil War. George was one of 14 children in the Cole family.
- **Married.** Amanda Swenson in 1904 in Missoula, Montana. They had three children: Russell, Stanley, and Goldie.
- **Died.** March 1, 1953, of a ruptured aneurysm in a Veterans hospital in Seattle, Washington.
- **Spanish American War.** George served in the Spanish American War. George was an excellent horseman. He rode with Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders up Kettle Hill during the war. According to a great-granddaughter, "After the war, President Roosevelt asked Grandpa to be in the Cabinet, but when Grandpa asked Grandma, she said 'No.' Therefore, he didn't do that."

- **1903.** George arrived in Missoula, Montana, to start work for the Northern Pacific Railroad.
- **1906.** Promoted to conductor for the railroad.
- **1920.** Appointed 30th Missoula County Sheriff when William Houston was fired for making moonshine in the jail. These were the heydays of prohibition and bootleggers.
- **February 12, 1922.** Sheriff Cole presided over the highly controversial hanging of Joe Vuckovich, who was accused of murdering Mrs. Jerry Shea in a love triangle. Mrs. Shea refused to leave her husband for Vuckovich. It seems a young woman saw Vuckovich "run around a corner from the murder victim's home with one hand under his coat, as though he may have been concealing something." Vuckovich proclaimed his innocence right to the end, although his attorneys never had him take the stand. They felt he had a better chance for freedom if his story was not told. The town came out in droves and even petitioned Governor Joseph M. Dixon to pardon Vuckovich. Governor Dixon stated he would not intervene in the proceedings. Added to the controversial sentencing was the fact that the hanging itself did not go smoothly and death was not immediate. Due to threats, Sheriff Cole took extreme caution by keeping the stockade well-guarded inside, outside, and on all the cross streets. Crowds gathered outside the stockade the night before the execution and multiplied throughout the day. Ironically, the young woman whose testimony helped to hang Vuckovich would find her own husband, William Cates, in the same jail cell awaiting death by hanging thirteen years after the Vuckovich hanging.
- **1922.** Sheriff Cole's deputies seized a large shipment of moonshine brought into Missoula from Butte. The liquor was described as "the worst kind." Officers stated, "It was the poorest grade of 'moon' and carried an awful wallop." The front men, J.C. Gilman and G.F. Kennedy, were in possession of a small amount of moonshine, six shooters "ready for business," and the recipe ("Boil 5 gallons water, 18 pounds of spuds. Let Cool. Add 8 pounds sugar, 2 yeast cakes. Distill inside of 24 hours as bubbles will stop coming up."). The notorious moonshiner Jack Keyes was arrested in the Mercer Boarding House, where he had 40 gallons of moonshine in his room.

- **1929.** Retired from railroad to operate a cattle ranch at Willow Creek, Montana, near the town of Philipsburg. He taught his entire family his love of horsemanship.
- **1934.** George and Amanda sold the ranch and retired to be near family in Kirkland, Washington.
- Spanish-American War Veteran and Masonic Lodge member.



Grave 2 – Lot 10 – Block 39A

George was buried alongside his spouse, Amanda, in the Dufresne family plots. His daughter, Goldie, and her husband, Julian Dufresne, were buried with them.



John “Jack” A. Rice

- **32nd Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** 1875 in Clover, Wisconsin.
- **Married.** Emma H. and they had nine children.
- **Died.** December 16, 1935, at his home of an extended illness in Missoula, Montana.
- **1875.** Jack lived in Drummond. He ran the Helmville Stage, which ran from Drummond to Helmville. He also worked on the Danbaur Ranch, located on the north fork of the Blackfoot River near what is now the Bob Marshall Wilderness area. He put up hay at the time when access into the wilderness was nothing but a mere trail.
- **1908.** Jack came to Missoula and worked as the stockyard foreman for the Northern Pacific Railroad. Simultaneously, he worked on the railroad bridge crew.
- **1914.** Jack was the Missoula City Police Chief. One night he arrested a drunken lumberjack. While moving him from the local saloon to the jail, the lumberjack pulled out a .38 revolver from his coat and fired a shot over Rice’s shoulder and past his ear. Rice would say in later years, “We’re (law enforcement) not angels, although sometimes we hear the angels sing.”
- **1922.** Elected 32nd Missoula County Sheriff.
- **1925.** An earthquake rattled the Missoula area during the night. Sheriff Rice and his family were in the living quarters adjacent to the County Jail. The Sheriff rushed his family out of their home in fear that the old jail building might come tumbling down as it was swaying wildly. Sheriff Rice began preparations for releasing inmates in case a more severe shock might occur. Damage assessment showed the jail had listed seven or eight inches to the northeast and showed large cracks in two walls.
- **Retirement.** After serving two terms as Sheriff, Jack became a Mercantile Police Officer.
- Socially, Jack was a member of the Elks Lodge and Eagles Lodge.

John (Jack) was buried in a single grave. It is not known where his wife or children are buried. Little else is known of the man himself.

1925 – An earthquake was felt throughout the entire Northwest from Yellowstone National Park to Spokane, Washington. Three aftershocks rattled the Missoula area. Buildings swayed, items fell from shelves, and automobiles were moved.



Grave 6 – Lot 2 – Block 47



Charles E. Sharpe

- **33rd Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** March 29, 1876, in Bellaire near Columbus, Ohio. His parents were farmers John and Lottie (Davis) Sharpe.
- **Married.** In December 1900 to Kate Etsel of Missoula. She was the daughter of Jacob and Margaret (Fergus) Etsel. Charles and Kate had four children.
- **Died.** March 10, 1946, of heart disease at his home in Missoula, Montana.
- Charles spent 33 years working for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He started out as division lineman in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He also worked out of the Dakotas.
- **1898.** Charles arrived in Missoula, Montana, with the Northern Pacific Railroad. He started out as a construction foreman on the Rocky Mountain Division. Later he was promoted to Assistant Superintendent of the Telegraph Department and worked in the Electrical Department until his retirement in 1923.
- Charles was in charge of stringing the first telegraph wire over the Cascade Mountains to Seattle, Washington.
- After his retirement from the railroad, Charles devoted his attention to the management of his property investments.
- **1928.** Elected as the 33rd Missoula County Sheriff. His campaign was won on the stand that he would “enforce the law to its full potential.”
- Socially, Charles was a Knight Templar Mason and a Shriner.



Grave 2 – Lot 12 – Block 33A

Charles was buried alongside his spouse, Katie. The ashes of their oldest daughter, Rose, was buried with them. Little else is known of Charles's life in Missoula.



James R. Thompson

- **34th Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** September 2, 1883, in Michigan.
- **Married.** July 7, 1919, to Margaret (Taylor) in Missoula, Montana. They had two children, Roberta and Roy. James also raised five stepchildren from Margaret's prior marriage.
- **Died.** October 26, 1939, of an extended illness in Missoula, Montana.
- Treasurer of the Montana Power Company in Butte, Montana.
- **1914.** James arrived in Missoula, Montana. He began work as a laborer then entered the transfer business. He held many jobs from Deputy Sheriff to working in the Federal Service to driving bus from Missoula to Polson. He was an officer with the City Police Department for over five years.
- **1932.** Elected as the 34th Missoula County Sheriff. He served three consecutive terms.
- Socially, James was a member of the Elks Lodge, Moose Lodge, Eagles Lodge, Neighbors of Woodcraft, and Lions Club.



Grave 3 – Lot 4 – Block 59

James was buried in the Taylor family plots alongside his son, Roy. Numerous other family members surround James's grave. Very little additional information has been found on James Thompson.



John Frederick “Jack” Shobлом

- **35th Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** August 28, 1871, at Marine on the St Croix, Minnesota.
- **Married.** Louise S. in 1901. Their only child, Genevieve Evalyn, died from spinal meningitis at four years old.
- **Died.** January 10, 1943, at his home in Missoula Montana. Jack died suddenly, one week after his retirement. He had just moved from the family quarters of the jailhouse into an apartment.
- **Nickname.** “Big Jack”
- **1897.** Arrived in Montana. Jack and Louise began their married life by working on a ranch near Philipsburg, Montana.
- **1900.** Arrived in Missoula, Montana. Jack was a renowned woodsman. Most of his life in Montana was spent in the woods as a foreman for the Anaconda Mining Company.
- **1901.** Jack was in charge of the large log drives down the Blackfoot River into the Bonner sawmill plant. It took 100 men to start the logs moving down the Clearwater River, then, 40 men took charge of delivering them down the Blackfoot River to the mill pond. Jack had a reputation of being loyal to the woodsmen and would often state that he had the best crews in the country. All his crews took great pride in their work and had a strong sense of loyalty and family for their fellow woodsmen. Jack said these were the “happiest days of his life.”
- **1907.** At the time of their daughter’s death, the Shobloms were living in St. Regis where Jack was connected with the Big Blackfoot Milling Company.
- **Granite County.** Served as County Commissioner.
- **1938.** Elected as the 35th Missoula County Sheriff.
- **September 6, 1940.** George “Slim” Franklin, 27, and Norman Lewis, 16, robbed a service station in Drummond at gunpoint, kidnapped the attendant, Jack Burnett, and fled into the mountains near Ovando. The robbers released Barnett late in the evening, abandoned the car, and set out on foot into the mountainous area. Sheriff Shobлом quickly rounded up a posse of 100+ men consisting of officers, ranchers, and farmers to block roads and search the hills. After one day and 15 miles of walking, Lewis was hungry, so he stepped out of the bushes and surrendered. The following day, Ovando ranchers Hugh Copenhaver and Art Daniels were headed into Missoula for supplies when Franklin hailed them down on Greenough Hill. The ranchers immediately recognized the man from posted descriptions. Art climbed in the backseat with a crank handle hidden between his knees and let Franklin sit in the front seat. About a mile down the road, Copenhaver made an excuse to stop the car and got out. When he re-entered the car, he and Daniels jumped Franklin and disarmed him. The captive noted his hunger and his concern that he could have “walked off a cliff or something.” The “take” from the robbery was \$36.85. Franklin received 15 years in prison and Lewis received 10 years.



Grave 6 – Lot 10 – Block 21

Jack was buried in the Shobлом family plots alongside his wife, Louise, and their baby daughter, Genevieve Evalyn.



Log drives down the Blackfoot River – Photos courtesy of the Bonner School/Jack L. Demmons photo collection.



Robert Dewar MacLean

- **36th Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** April 9, 1896, in Mandan, North Dakota, to Robert and Anna (MacDonald) MacLean.
- **Nickname.** "Bob"
- **Married.** May 8, 1928, to Beryl Frazier in Missoula, Montana. They had one child, Robert MacLean, Jr.
- **Died.** September 15, 1961, of cancer in Missoula, Montana.
- **1901.** The MacLean family moved to Missoula, Montana.
- **1912.** As a teenager, Robert worked as a call boy for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He would call crews to work. He eventually moved up to brakeman then to conductor.
- **WW I.** Robert served in the United States Army. The war ended within days of his being deployed overseas.
- **1929.** Robert worked for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the Great Depression.
- **1933 - 1942.** Robert served as Undersheriff of Missoula County for Sheriff James Thompson and Sheriff Jack Shobлом.
- For 12 years, the MacLeans lived in the family quarters at the County Jail. Mrs. MacLean cooked all the meals for the prisoners. During WWII, that also included some Italian and German people.
- **1942.** Elected as the 36th Missoula County Sheriff. Sheriff MacLean served in that position for 16 years until he retired in 1959.
- **Last Legal Execution in Montana.** (Note: There are many *Missoulian* articles about this case, and the information below was pieced together from those articles.) September 10, 1943, the last legal execution in the state of Montana was overseen by Sheriff MacLean. Philip "Slim" Coleman, Jr., 24 years old, was accused of the grisly murder of Carl and Roslyn Pearson at Lothrop, Montana. He had robbed them of \$200. Coleman escaped in the Pearson family car, which was later discovered abandoned in Drummond. A large manhunt was activated by Sheriff MacLean, and Coleman was apprehended, it was reported that he had bragged about his deeds and showed no remorse. Instead, he was extremely cheerful and commented on how "funny" the whole situation was. He became more serious the day before his scheduled hanging, though. At that time, Coleman confessed to 23 other murders he had committed since he was 14 years old, growing up in the Black neighborhoods of St. Louis, Illinois. In a dictated confession the night before he died, however, he only gave details about eight of those murders. The confession is said to still be in Missoula records, but inquiries have not found it. It is also believed that none of Coleman's confessions was ever used to resolve any unsolved murder cases. In the end, Coleman was baptized into the Catholic faith and accompanied to the gallows by Father Henry L. Sweeny. The gallows was specially built inside the jailhouse, and the hanging was done in a very quiet, dignified manner with no news reporters and only a



First foot of rope used in Coleman's hanging along with an invitation to the execution.

few invited guests. All previous hangings had been conducted in the open jail yard with a stockade placed around the gallows and the infamous “Gallopin’ Gertie” gallows was used. The specially made gallows for Coleman’s hanging was eventually located in a dusty old section of the Missoula County fairgrounds. They have since been re-located to the Fort Missoula Historical Museum.



Grave 3 – Lot 6 – Block 11A

Robert is buried alongside his spouse, Beryl. Their only son, Robert Jr., was buried in the Horace Frazier family plots.

Missoula County Sheriff Listing as Elected

1853 – 1861—Washington Territory

1860 – Milton W. Tipton
1861 – William T. Hamilton

1862 – James Stuart

1863—Idaho Territory & 1864—Montana Territory

1864 - Andrew Campbell
1865 – Henry P. Larrabie
1867 – Edwin W. Park
1870 – Robert A. Pelkey
1871 – William G. Edwards
1872 – Joseph E. Marion
1874 – John Miller

1876 – Moses M. Drouillard
1878 – Daniel Woodman
1880 – E. A. Kennedy
***1882 – Charles William Berry**
1884 – Robert Lane
***1886 – Daniel Heyfron**

November 8, 1889, Statehood – Montana became 41st state

***1890 – William H. Houston**
1892 – Col. Samuel G. Ramsay
1894 – H. W. McLaughlin
1898 – Dennis T. Curran
1900 – Clarence R. Prescott
***1902 – Harry W. Thompson**
***1904 – Davis Graham**
1906 – Hugh B. Campbell
***1908 – Davis Graham**
1910 – William L. Kelley
***1914 – Richard J. Whitaker**
***1916 – John “Jim” T. Green**
***1920 – William H. Houston**
***1921 – George A. Cole**
***1922 – John “Jim” T. Green**

***1924 – John “Jack” Rice**
***1928 – Charles E. Sharpe**
***1932 – James Thompson**
***1938 – John “Jack” F. Shobлом**
***1942 – Robert MacLean**
1958 – William Walker
1966 – John Murphy
1970 – John C. Moe
1978 – Raymond J. Froehlich
1984 – Daniel L. Magone
1990 – Douglas Chase
2001 – Michael McMeekin
2011 – Carl Ibsen
2015 – T. J. McDermott
2022 – Jeremiah Petersen

* = Sheriff buried in Missoula City Cemetery and included in this booklet.