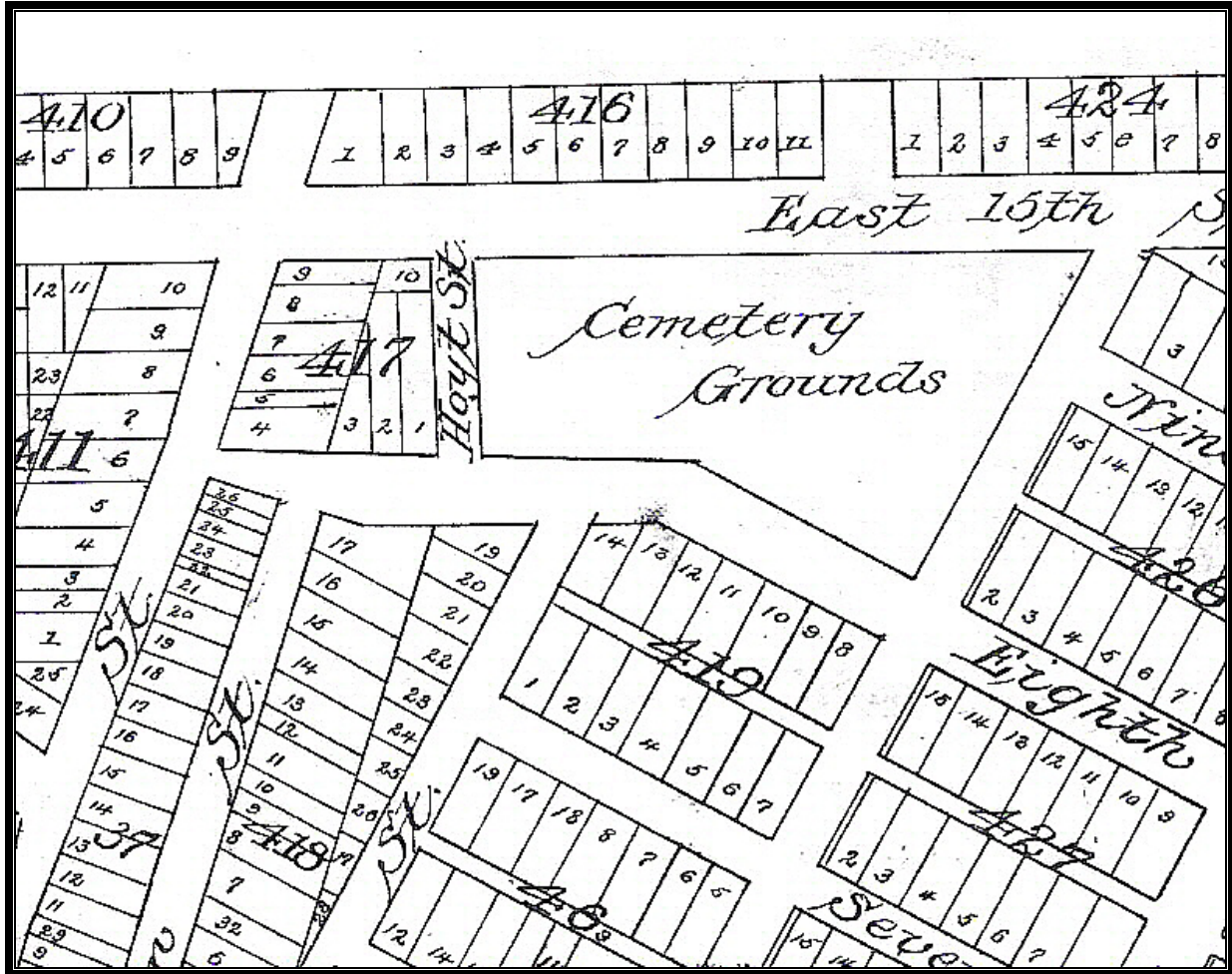


**CITY CEMETERY
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
HELENA, MONTANA
Compiled by Charleen Spalding**



East 15th Street shown above the cemetery grounds is now Lawrence Street.
Plat of the Town Site of Helena, Lewis and Clark County, Montana Territory, dated 1868

This cemetery no longer exists. It was one of the first recognized cemeteries in Helena, and was located behind Grade School Number 1 and behind the High School on Warren Street. Grade School Number 1 was torn down after the present Central School was built in 1915 and the High School was demolished at a later date. Many graves were removed to Benton Avenue Cemetery and one moved to Home of Peace Cemetery. Several Chinese people were buried in this cemetery but their final resting place is unknown. Central School has been demolished and a new school was built in 2019.



Grade School No. 1, dated 1/5/1876, E. H. Train, photographer, MHS, 953-705
Note the white cemetery fences behind the outhouse



On the right shows Grade School No. 1, behind the school to the left is the cemetery within the fence.
Dated August 1890, MHS, H 2309

12/14/1878: Helena Daily Independent

NOTICE

PROPOSALS will be received at the Clerk's office, Lewis and Clarke county, M.T., until 12 o'clock M. of the First Monday in January, 1879, for the exhuming of the remains of the dead bodies now lying in the old cemetery, near the Helena Public School House, and for the removal of the same to the burial ground known

as the County Cemetery, and their proper interment therein. The new graves to be at least (3 ½) three and one half feet deep. The contractor is to furnish new caskets where the present ones are so far decayed as to render their removal unsafe. Also, to remove from the old and replace at the new graves all monuments, railings, head and foot boards, and all other marks of whatever kind that will enable the friends of the deceased to identify his or her tomb. By order the Board of County Commissioners, O. B. TOTTEN, County Clerk and Recorder, dec14-dtd

12/20/1878 – Lewis and Clark County Commissioner’s Minutes:

Contract for removal of bodies with Gus Seniert, removing bodies from old cemetery to new cemetery for \$8.00 each, contract accepted.

3/6/1879 – Lewis and Clark County Commissioner’s Minutes:

Gus Seniert presented bill for removing 198 bodies from old to new cemetery according to contract. Amounting to \$1,584.00, allowed – general fund.



Central School, dated 9/20/2014, before demolition in 2019, photo by Ric Seabrook.

Central School was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The historic plaque was placed near the Central School entrance. It read as follows:

CENTRAL SCHOOL

Construction of Helena's first permanent school house began in 1875 after relocation of the old mining camp cemetery which originally occupied these grounds. Opening its doors in January, 1876, it was the first public school in Montana Territory with graded classrooms, a high school curriculum and a kindergarten. By 1889, Central was considered the "most prized" of Helena's seven public schools. A high school and public library (neither of which remain standing) were added to the block in the 1890s, followed by the school gymnasium in 1908. As Helena grew, Central's seven rooms became inadequate. The present building, designed by George H. Carsley, was constructed behind the older school in 1915. Two symmetrical wings were added in 1921 and the older landmark was then demolished. Still in service today, Central School maintains a place of honor as a historic cornerstone of Montana's public school system.

THE FLAGPOLE

As man became industrialized, I wonder, did he realize what effect it would have on us? Did he know that by man having the knowledge to create steel and to develop pride that he would imprint upon the minds of children the act of creativity, and with those instruments be able to trigger a response?

Early in history men developed pride in his family, in his house, his country. He showed his pride by decorating his house and he built solid schools for his children to learn. And he built tall flag poles out front on display.

I wonder how many kids besides me sat in a warm sunny classroom at his desk and listened to the ring of the flagpole as the metal clasp beat against the metal pole.

I wonder if many knew what the results would be to a forty-year old boy as he walked down the street and heard the ringing of the pole.

Did he foresee the fond smile?

Written by Ric Seabrook





The new Central School, 9/16/2019, photo by Ric Seabrook

Allen, Samuel C.

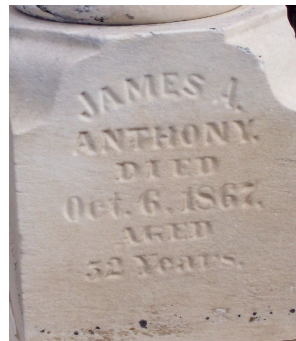
Samuel's home was Mount Morris, Illinois, where his parents lived. While out duck hunting along the Prickly Pear on April 7, 1867, Sam took his comrade's double-barreled shotgun into his hands, stepped a few paces around a point, saying to his friend that he would look for some ducks. He had scarcely got out of sight before the report of the gun was heard, and upon going to the spot, Allen was found lying dead with the front part of his head shot away; he evidently pulled down his hat over his eyes, placed the muzzle against his brain and pulled the fatal trigger. Allen had been an invalid for a long time, had become discouraged and despondent, even partially insane at times. (*Helena Herald Supplement*, 4/11/1867) The newspaper article notes that Sam was an invalid. Curiously, he was able to go duck hunting.

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery. He is buried in Section C but there is no marker.

Anthony, James A.

James was born near Boonesboro, Tennessee about 1815. He married Jane Hill at Sparta, Missouri on December 23, 1842. James was a prominent politician in Missouri, was county judge for many years, and mayor of St. Joseph, Missouri. They had nine children, one son being Lewis C. Anthony. Mr. Anthony died on October 6, 1867 at the age of 52.

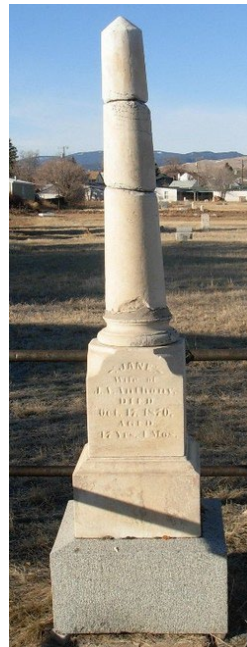
Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery. He shares a tombstone with his wife, Jane. They are buried in Section A, Row 2.



Anthony, Jane

Jane (Hill) Anthony was born in Platte County, Missouri about 1853. She died on 10/17/1870, age 47 years 4 months.

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery. She shares a tombstone with her husband, James. They are buried in Section A, Row 2.



Baker, Frederick

Enlisted as a Private on 29 August 1862.

Enlisted in Company A, 2nd Cavalry Regiment California on 20 Jan 1864.

Mustered Out Company A, 2nd Cavalry Regiment California on 10 Aug 1865 at Fort Laramie, D.T.

1870 Mortality Census:

Fred Baker, male, white, born Missouri about 1829, age 41, miner, died 7/22/1869 from inflammation of spinal cord.

“Died. In this city [Helena], this morning, Frederick Baker, a native of England, in the 40th year of his age. The deceased had been mining during a year past at New York Gulch and vicinity. He formerly served a three years’ enlistment in Company A (and M, new organization,) 2d regiment cavalry, California volunteers.” (*Helena Weekly Herald*, 7/22/1869)

He may have been moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery but there is no marker.

Beach, Lora Etta May

“Died. At the residence of her parents, in Helena, M.T., at 11 a.m., on the 14th of February, 1870, Lora Etta May, only daughter of E. and A.G. Beach, aged 2 years and one month. ‘She’s gone! Forever gone! The King of terrors Lays his rude hands upon her lovely limbs, And blasts her beauties with his icy breath. Early, bright, transient, chaste as morning dew, She sparkled, was exhal’d, and went to heaven, Death is another life.’” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 2/14/1870)

“The funeral service of Lora Etta May, only daughter of E. and A. G. Beach, will be held at the M.E. Church to-morrow afternoon at 2 o’clock” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 2/14/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery about 12/1/1870. She has a footstone for marker inscribed "LEMB."



Belcher, Maggie

Maggie died on 1/18/1870.

"The funeral of Miss Maggie Belcher will not take place for several days yet, or at least not until her brothers, who have been sent for, arrive from the Gallatin valley." (Rev. S. J. Lathrop held her funeral from the Methodist Church on Broadway) (*Helena Daily Herald*, 1/19/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery. She is buried in Section C but there is no marker.

Bell, Frank

"We are sorry to inform our readers of the death of Judge Frank Bell, on the 24th ult., [8/24/1865] by his own hand. The melancholy event must have been contemplated for some time, from the cool and deliberate action of the misguided man. Junius G. Sanders was down at Judge Bell's ranche, (sic) on Ten Mile Creek, and was conversing with him, when the Judge noticed that he had a very fine revolver, and said, 'That is a handsome revolver you have; let me see it.' Sanders handed it to him. Bell took a step back, cocked the pistol, placed the muzzle to his heart, and pulling the trigger, shot himself dead on the spot. Judge Bell leaves an unmarried sister, in this Territory, to mourn his loss." (*Montana Post*, Virginia City, 9/2/1865)

He may have been moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery. There is no marker.

Bitzer, John R.

John was born in Prussia about 1829. In December 1869 he was shot and killed by Ah Chow.

“Three Chinese merchants of Helena, offer a reward of \$150 for Ah Chow the murdered of Bitzer.” (*The New North-West*, 2/18/1870)

“When the citizens of Helena awakened on the chilly morning of January 27, 1870, they beheld a body ‘strung-up’ on the old pine tree in Dry Gulch. The body was that of Ah Chow, a Chinese who was charged with the murder of three people and who had been at large for several weeks. Sometime during the night, someone had caught up with the unfortunate man. The *Herald* reporter visited the scene of the hanging (the body was left on the rope all morning) and noted that there was a placard pinned to the deceased’s back which read: ‘Al Chow, the murderer of John R. Bitzer. Beware! The Vigilantes still live!’” (*From the Quarries of Last Chance Gulch*, dated September 14, 1951, by William C. Campbell, The Montana Record Publishing Company, privately published by the author, page 32)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery. He has a new tombstone.

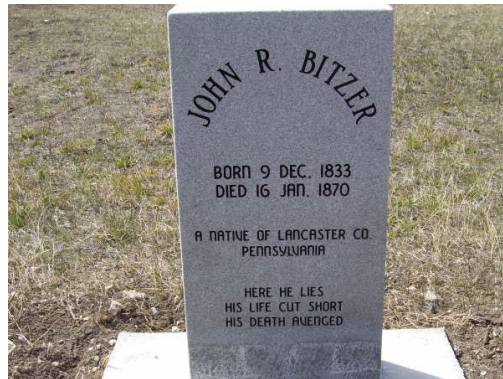


Photo by Stacy Carter

Blum, Emanuel aka Blume

Mr. Blum was born about 1841. He died on 5/5/1865 at age 24. He was buried in the City Cemetery.

He was moved to Home of Peace Cemetery. According to the Minutes of 12/5/1867, “. . . and have the body of E. Blum removed to the Jewish Cemetery.” He is listed on the Home of Peace Plot Plan dated 1931. No stone was located.

In the Home of Peace Cemetery, his grave is located north of the driveway, outside the chain link fence, in the High School practice field.

Bullard, William Lewis

William Lewis Bullard was born in Bowling Green, Caroline County, Virginia on July 24, 1812, the son of William and Lucinda (Woolfolk) Bullard. On February 19, 1834, he married Ann Frances Burruss in Caroline County, Virginia.

By 1850, he was living in District 46, Lafayette, Missouri with his wife Ann and sons Oscar age 16 and Walter age 12. William was working as a blacksmith. They arrived in Virginia City on September 10, 1864.

On December 24, 1868, at the age of 56 he died in Helena.

“DIED. On Christmas Eve, at his residence in Prickly Pear Valley, of Nervous Prostration, Mr. W. L. Bullard, aged 65 (sic-he was 56) years.

“Mr. Bullard was born in the State of Virginia, in the county of King William. He came to the Territory of Montana over four years ago, and has during his residence here been actively engaged in business pursuits. He was one of the most extensive freighters in the Territory, and everywhere carried with him the respect of those with whom he sustained business relations. Generous, honorable in all things, kind-hearted and noble in his impulses, he gathered around him a community of friends who admired him for his virtues, and who mourn with sorrow his untimely and sudden departure. He was an earnest and zealous Christian, ever advancing the cause of the Church, and walking consistently and faithfully in her chosen path. He leaves a wife and four sons to mourn the loss of a faithful and loving husband and a good father.” (*The Montana Post*, 1/1/1869)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery. He does not have a tombstone.

Chinese Mary

Chinese Mary died on 9/8/1867.

“From the Daily Herald of the 10th: Revolting Murder. – A revolting murder was perpetrated at the cabin corner of Water and Cutler street, on Sunday night last, the victim being a subject of the Celestial Empire, called “Chinese Mary,” a woman of the town. The causes which led to the committal of the murder are not definitely known, but the belief generally prevails that the crime was done for money. The circumstances of the case, so far as we have been able to learn, are substantially as follows: The woman, who had gold dust, coin, and greenbacks, amounting to something like \$1500, had been for

some days making preparations to leave for California, and had informed a number of her friends and acquaintances of her intention to depart by the coach yesterday (Monday) morning. A colored man, who had been for several weeks living with her, was to have accompanied her and consummated the nuptial relation after the custom of the Chinese, upon their arrival in the Pacific El Dorado. About the hour of 1 o'clock of Sunday morning, the negro, who had been absent in town, repaired to the cabin of the woman for the purpose of awakening her in time for the morning coach. Upon his arrival at the cabin he found that a man was stopping with the woman, and, without entering the house, went away. Returning shortly after and calling to the woman, he failed to get any reply, and lifting the latch pushed open the door. He had taken but a step into the room, when he discovered the woman, apparently dead, lying upon the floor. He immediately summoned Dr. Truesdale, who soon after appearing upon the scene of the murder, found the woman in the position we have described, - with a pair of drawers tied taut around her neck. Upon examination life was found to be extinct, although the body was still warm. From marks left upon the woman's neck, it would appear that the deceased must have struggled fiercely for her life, but the desperate grip on the murderer was not to be relinquished until assured of the death of his victim. After he had loosened his hold, to make sure of the completeness of his diabolical deed, the assassin, it is evident, strangled with the garment mentioned, any possible breath of life remaining in the body. There is no evidence as yet obtained pointing to the perpetrator of this murder, and there is little likelihood of our energetic and wide awake officials making any great effort to ferret him out. The victim's money is nowhere to be found, showing that the murder was but an accompaniment to robbery. The body of the deceased was yesterday in the hands of the Chinese, who were preparing it for burial, after the rites of the Celestials." (*Helena Weekly Herald*, 9/12/1867)

"China. - We are sorry to be obliged to shock the sensitive nerves of our friend on the hill with another china item, but we presume our readers will be interested in the curious whether it has its origin in Chinadom or the 'left wing.' During the week succeeding the death of 'China Mary,' her friends set out, in the cabin here she died, a table supplied with numerous Celestial delicacies, such as dried fish, dried oysters, candied, lemons, rice, tea, ginger and preserves, for the use of the departed companion. The idea of the mourners is that, their unseen friend subsists upon the unsavory odors arising from these viands, something after the style, perhaps, of the vagrant who used to wait by the steps of an oyster cellar and entreat the waiter to

carry by that stew one time more. It must strike a practical Yankee that one meal per day on the odor of dried oysters is very scanty faire. But the food referred to was not all the provision made for the departed. The friends had all been troubled by visions in which the late Mary appeared and complained of cold weather and a scanty supply of clothing. In order to remedy this inconvenience the mourners assembled on the morning of the seventh day after Mary's death, in front of her cabin, and burned quite a large wardrobe which they brought with them. Nothing was omitted – beautiful handkerchiefs, embroidered petticoats, a complete outfit of underclothing, and not omitting even a hoop-shirt, - all were turned into 'ghosts' by the flames, to be worn in ghost land by the shivering complainant that troubled the dreams of the donors." (*Helena Weekly Herald*, 9/12/1867)

"A China Funeral. – The funeral of 'Chinese Mary' who was so fiendishly murdered early last Monday morning, took place on Tuesday. About daylight on the morning of that day the ceremonies were commended by the burning of incense and Chinese paper money about the corpse, which had been laid out in the American fashion in the private hospital near West Main street. The mourners consisted only of four Chinese women, others being deterred from coming by the threats of the Chinamen, who accused "Mary" of having disowned her country and claimed Japanese nativity, and refused to have anything to do with the, or to conform to their 'company' arrangements. These mourners, early in the day, placed at the head of the coffin, in plates, an assortment of delicacies such as pears, peaches, nuts, candy, sugar, flour and bouquets, and at her feet was placed rice, pork steaks, eggs, onions and a glass of brandy. Whether this delicate bill of fare was provided for her sustenance in the next world, we were unable to learn; but we presume it was only spread out for the purpose of showing respect to the deceased. This respect was also shown by putting a great quantity of Chinese paper money and cards and dice in the coffin, and by the kneelings and kissings of the floor by the mourners about the head of the coffin. These mourners constantly busied themselves in talking to the deceased, and implicitly believed that she heard every word they said. During the afternoon the corpse was taken to the Helena Cemetery and buried. At the grave the ceremonies were even more interesting than at the house. A quantity of gold coin and specimens, amounting in all to some forty dollars, had been placed in the mouth of the corpse before leaving the house; and now that the body was lowered into the grave, numerous small silver pieces were thrown in the grave. The presence of this coin near the body is supposed, by the Chinese, to prevent the bones from rotting and breaking, thus insuring less difficulty

in their removal to the Celestial kingdom than would otherwise be experienced. We may remark at this point, however, that the bodies of women are seldom removed, especially those of such women as the one whose funeral we are describing. Besides the silver coins referred to, rice, beans, peas and various seeds were thrown in the grave, all out of respect to the deceased. We have mentioned that considerable Chinese money was burned at the house. At the grave, the clothing of the deceased was also burned, it being supposed that the ghost of the departed mortal is thus secured the use of the ghost of the departed clothing and of the departed money in the next world; this next world being similar to this, with its work to be done, its governments and courts the same, the only thing to be hoped for being the same chance of bettering ones condition, which the Chinaman acts upon when he first leaves the Flowery Kingdom for 'Melica.' This other world is supposed to be reached after a seven days journey, at the end of that time a pure river is reached in which the deceased washes off the odors of the grave and becomes clean, and starts in life anew, the burned money and clothes to furnish her the means of going wherever she may desire. In this second world she lives and dies again as here on this earth, and passes to another and yet another world, during the ages which made up eternity. When the belief in a future state is so firmly implanted in even the most ignorant of mortals, who shall deny its existence? After the funeral, the house of the deceased was illumined by candle-like reeds placed just inside the window, beside a pewter dish containing rice, half of a boiled egg, half of a potato and two sardines crossed. These were placed there by a Chinawoman who reached through the window for the purpose, not daring to enter, through fears of the Devil which they said was in the building. They even wished 'Uncle Johnny,' the owner of the building to nail up the door and window on account of this evil spirit. Thus ended the funeral of 'Chinese Mary.' Her effects left in town amount to two hundred and ten dollars, and will be sent to her children who are now living in Weaverville, California. She was only a Chinawoman, but that justice may speedily overtake her murderer is the wish of all good citizens." (*Helena Weekly Herald*, 9/12/1867)

Chinese, How, Ah

He was a washerman, lived in Helena, and died in June 1869 from disease of the heart, at age 34.

Chinese, See, Ye

He lived in Helena. He was found dying, shot by a white man, and died in June 1869, at age 31.

Chinese, Young, Gun

He was a miner, lived Helena, and died in July 1869 from rheumatism, at age 25.

Chinese, Wung, How

He was a miner, lived in Helena, died in July 1869 from rheumatism at age 40.

Chinese, Chinawoman, Mary

Mary was a housekeeper and lived in Helena. In November 1869 she died from softening of the brain, at age 30.

Chinese, Chinese Woman

“Died. [on 12/19/1867] – A Chinese woman, named something almost unpronounceable, and without any particular meaning, died on Thursday night last, it is said from the continued effects of opium and poor whisky. The unusual ceremonies of burying the deceased’s clothes, offering incense, etc., took place at the funeral. A large number of our Celestial denizens attended.” (*The Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana Territory, 12/28/1867)

Chinese, Yap, Jo

He lived Helena and died in January 1870 at age 33.

Chinese, Chow, Ah “Jo”

Ah Chow was hanged on 1/25/1870.

“When the citizens of Helena awakened on the chilly morning of January 27, 1870, they beheld a body ‘strung-up’ on the old pine tree in Dry Gulch. The body was that of Ah Chow, a Chinese who was charged with the murder of three people and who had been at large for several weeks. Sometime during the night, someone had caught up with the unfortunate man. The *Herald* reporter visited the scene of the hanging (the body was left on the rope all morning) and noted that there was a placard pinned to the deceased’s back which read: ‘Al Chow, the murderer of John R. Bitzer. Beware! The Vigilantes still live!’” (*From the Quarries of Last Chance Gulch*, dated

September 14, 1951, by William C. Campbell, The Montana Record Publishing Company, privately published by the author, page 32)

“Ten Men Died on Hangman’s Tree in Early Days Here: One Chinaman. Ah Chow a wood gathering Chinaman brought the Hangman Tree tally to eight when he murdered John R. Bitzer. Ah Chow, who suffered from rheumatism but not from conscience, led possemen a lengthy chase before justice caught up with him on the road a short distance from town. A \$500 reward had been posted for his arrest. *Post* information on him read ‘Wanted for murder. Ah Chow, commonly called Jo, who used to drive a team of horses hauling firewood and drift timber. Thirty-five years old, stocky, carries one arm in a sling because of rheumatism. He has a sore between his shoulder blades caused from a hatchet wound.’ It is rumored that law-abiding Chinese advised the Vigilantes of Ah Chow’s whereabouts. At any rate the pine tree had another customer one night and John R. Bitzer’s murder was avenged.” (*Helena Independent*, 4/30/1939)

Chinese, Strow, Ah

He was a miner, lived in Helena, and died from bronchitis in February 1870. He was 46 years old.

Chinese, Chinaman

He was found on 12/12/1870.

“Chinamen Found Hung. – A party of hunters, yesterday, while out in the mountains south-east of the city, about two miles from the Catholic burying ground, discovered the dead body of a Chinaman swinging from the limb of a pine tree. The body was cut down, and the discovery made that the Celestial must have been hanging in the condition in which he was found for a period of many months. The remains were dried and shriveled and resembled a mummy of the Egyptian period. Bringing the body to town, an inquest was held over it by a coroner’s jury, whose verdict in the case has not yet been proclaimed.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 12/12/1870)

Chinese, Eleven

“The Herald infers that the Chinese in Helena, of whom there were a great number in the early days, did not have a funeral for a single deceased member of their race, but waited until there were several, and then had one grand ‘pow-wow’. On July 24 [1871] it was reported that ‘the Chinese on Water Street today held their barbaric ceremonies over the bodies of eleven

of their countrymen. The coffins contained the dead were placed side by side on the ground while nearby 40 or 50 tapers were burning. At a nearby house on a table was a spread covered with meats, vegetables and confectionery, while a wagon load of roasted pigs, sheep and goats represented the sacrifices to the maues of the departed. The superstitious rites were performed with the greatest decorum and apparent sincerity . . .” (*From the Quarries of Last Chance Gulch*, dated September 14, 1951, by William C. Campbell, The Montana Record Publishing Company, privately published by the author, page 38)

Chinese, Sung, Ah

Ah Sung died on 1/15/1872.

“Fatal Affray in Chinatown. About 7 o’clock last night a stabbing affray occurred in Chinatown, between two Mongolians, in which one of them was fatally injured. It appears that the quarrel originated in a shooting scrape, which occurred about two weeks ago. The name of the man who was stabbed is Ah Sung. He lived but a few moments after the fatal blow was given. The murderer attempted to make his escape, but was overtaken by Officer Stapleton, and soon afterwards lodged in jail.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 1/16/1872)

Chinese. Four

Found on 1/14/1875.

“Dead on the Wayside. Four Chinamen Frozen to Death. The first fatal effects of the present cold weather, we learn, was the freezing of four Chinamen in lower Last Chance. It appears they came to town Tuesday morning with the intention of celebrating one of their innumerable holidays, and that they enjoyed themselves immensely with their Celestial friends during the day, with never a thought of the cold bed and chilly pillow in store for them that bleak winter’s night. The thermometer had dropped away down that evening, and few ventured out of doors unless actually compelled to do so. After celebrating to their hearts’ content, the Chinamen got kegs, filled with whisky, which they carried in their hands. It was taking cold chances to venture out that evening, but the Chinamen had imbibed considerable fluid, and felt warm and brave. What cared they for the ‘Wind of the Winter’s Night?’ They had drank plenty, and could stop by the wayside, if they got chilly, and keep their spirits up by drinking more. So at 4 o’clock in the afternoon they bid their friends good-buy and started on

their journey home. They only got about half a mile below town. Doubtless, when they reached the open ground, and the cold, fierce wind which sweeps along the foot hills struck them, they were chilled through, and succumbed to the intense cold. Their comrades on the claims below, had kept the fires burning in their cabins during the night, expecting the return of their four companions. Morning came, but no Chinamen. Becoming alarmed, they started out to search for their missing friends. After wandering around quite a while they discovered the four Chinamen on the road, lying close together, cold and stiff, their little kegs of whisky beside them, the contents also frozen. The Chinamen sadly took up their dead and carried them to their cabins, from whence the funerals will take place. We understand the unfortunate men belonged to the See Yup Company.” (*Daily Independent*, 1/14/1875)

Chinese, Sing Tung Yow

Sing Tung Yow died on 11/9/1875. There was a coroner’s inquest, #19.

Clark, Wife of Joseph Clark

She died on 1/1/1870.

“Sudden Death.— On Monday morning last, Mrs. Clark, wife of Jos. Clark, owner of the ‘O.K.’ corral, was taken suddenly ill with a fit – falling on the floor and cutting a deep gash in the back part of her head. Soon after, a peddler with his pack, came in and found her just coming out of the fit. She called for some water, which he gave her; he immediately raised the alarm; Dr. Maupin was sent for, but before he arrived she had expired. The deceased had not been in very good health for several days, but that morning she felt unusually well her husband says, and he had gone to his work, little dreaming that he was so soon to lose his beloved wife. Some foolish person started the report that she had poisoned herself, but Dr. Maupin informs us that he made a careful examination, and that the report is false; that she died from effects of a severe fit and the injuries received in falling.” (*Helena Herald Supplement*, 4/4/1867)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Cooke, Tommy

He was hanged on 9/17/1865.

“On Monday morning, the beams of the rising sun fell upon the stiffened corpse of Tommy Cooke, a thief, swinging in the morning breeze, with the fatal token of the vengeance of the Vigilantes around his neck, and bearing on a label the simple legend, ‘Pickpocket.’ The criminal, Tommy Cooke, was a thief and a rough from ‘the other side,’ whether Boise or California, we know not; but the usual course of education embraces a residence in both of these training grounds of the Road Agents, robbers and desperadoes of the West. Cooke was probably a graduate of both places. A number of robberies were noticed in our last issue, and, through the praiseworthy exertions of Deputy Marshal ‘Quill’ Lawrence, the perpetrator was traced up, arrested and held for trial. A court that no finessing could deceive had determined the question of his fate. He was taken from the custody of his captors, and the next time that he was seen, his career of crime had met with an appropriate termination. The climate of Montana is unhealthy for criminals, and Helena seems to be peculiarly so.” (*Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana, September 23, 1865)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Crouchet, John “Frenchy”

Frenchy was born about 1831 and died on 6/4/1866.

“Employed by Discovery company was the name ‘Frenchy’, who afterward swung from a limb in Dry Gulch. He was a volunteer in the guard round, and a strong advocate of hemp.” (*From the Quarries of Last Chance Gulch*, dated September 14, 1951, by William C. Campbell, The Montana Record Publishing Company, privately published by the author, page 9 and 10)

“Helena Letter. Helena, M.T., June 6th, 1866. Items exclusively, and condensed at that, ‘No. 7. A robber and perjurer, and one who has tried to swear away the lives of innocent men. An old offender, caught at last.’ ‘Only this and nothing more’ did the hangman’s tree in Dry Gulch vouchsafe to tell, as it bore aloft upon that same strong arm, so often bruised by the twist of the rope, the body of John Crochet or Trochin, more familiarly known as ‘Frenchy.’ This man, who was about 35 years of age came from the Boise country to Virginia City; represented himself a good man, and worked into the good graces of many of the citizens. Soon after he came here, he was one of the night watch during a portion of last winter. His being found with his neck in a noose, on the morning of the 5th inst., is supposed to be in some way connected with the following circumstance: On

the night of the 2d instant, 'Frenchy' robbed Capt. John Rogers of some \$700, while the latter was under the influence of liquor. He afterwards returned some \$300, having spent the remainder in dissipation. He had been flourishing pistols and proving himself the bad man we find he always had the reputation of being on the other side. He was lodged in jail awaiting his trial for assault and battery, at the time he was taken by his executioners, the jail being forced by his captors." (*Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana, June 9, 1866)

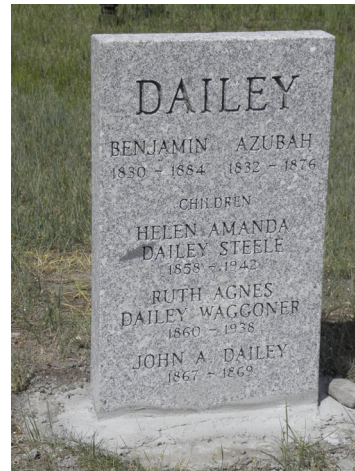
Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Dailey, John A.

Little John Daily was born in 1867 in Helena. On 7/8/1869 he died from brain fever.

"Died. This morning at 11 o'clock, a.m., John A. Daily, infant son of Benjamin and Azubah S. Daily. Funeral will take place to-morrow at 10 a.m. Friends of the family are invited to attend." (*Helena Weekly Herald*, 7/8/1869)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery. He has a new shared tombstone.



Daniels, James

James Daniels died on 3/2/1866.

The skull that was found in 1931 is not that of James Daniels.

October 31, 1931, *Helena Independent*, page 5:

GRINNING SKULL IS GIVEN TO THE STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

The skull of John Keene, first man hung on the well known Hangman's Tree in this city, will no longer be lonesome in the glass case at the capitol building. Lawrence Opp yesterday delivered the skull and miscellaneous bones of (here is a blank space in the paper) might have been James Daniels, hanged in March, 1866, to the state historical library.

Although it has not been definitely proved that the skeleton, which was unearthed late last summer by a crew building the gas line, is that of one James Daniels, old timers believe that is the most authentic guess. The bones of this man Daniels will either be burned or buried, unless curio seekers take all of the parts for their various collections.

“Second Section: Ten Men Died on Hangman's Tree in Early Days Here: James Daniels, whose skull is in the state historical library, is No. 6 in chronological order, but No. 1 in interest. (There is no proof that the skull is that of Daniels)” (*Helena Independent*, 4/30/1939)

Peculiar Case

Daniels was tried by a court without jurisdiction, sentenced by a judge who didn't have the proper authority, reprieved by a governor who rightfully had no power in the matter, and finally hanged by the Vigilantes – while in his coat pocket was the reprieve signed by the territory's chief executive.

Daniels had a record of at least one killing when he arrived in Helena. One night while playing cards with a group of men an argument arose and Daniels stabbed to death a man named Gartley.

Arrested by the Vigilantes, he was turned over to the sheriff. Judge L. E. Munson, a territorial judge, sentenced Daniels to three years in the territory jail (circumstances surrounding the quarrel and stabbing reduced the charge) even though a U.S. grand jury had returned an indictment.

After he had served three weeks a petition signed by 32 Helena residents was submitted to Gov. Thomas F. Meagher [Acting Governor]. The latter signed a reprieve, even though the federal indictment put such power in the hands of the president. Meagher, apparently, was unaware of the complete facts surrounding the legal technicalities of the case.

Freed, Daniels headed for Helena, talking openly that he was “going to Helena to see a few people who testified against me.” There was little doubt Daniels was going to kill someone. And so, before such action could be carried out, Daniels was taken in the night to Hangman’s Tree, to add to the list of evil-doers with whom the Vigilantes had administered justice. The hanging occurred March 2, 1866.

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Davenport, Anna

Little Anna was born 6/18/1855 in Missouri. On 9/6/1865 at age 10 she died from measles contacted aboard the steamship St. John en route to Fort Benton.

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery and later moved to Forestvale Cemetery.



Davenport, Baby Girl

Baby Girl Davenport was born in Helena on 5/9/1873. On 2/23/1875 she died from scarlet fever at 1 year 9 months 14 days.

“Died. In Helena, Feb. 23d, 1875, infant daughter of William and Rachel Davenport, aged 1 year and 10 months.” (*Daily Independent*, 2/24/1875)

“We were shocked yesterday in learning the sudden death of the infant daughter of Maj. William and Rachel Davenport, who died yesterday morning, after a very short illness. The funeral will take place to-day at 1 o’clock, to which the friends of the family are invited to attend without further notice.” (*Daily Independent*, 2/24/1875)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery and later moved to Forestvale Cemetery.



East, James

“Died, Near Helena City, M.T., on the 19th day of November, 1865, James East.

“The deceased was a member of Clermont Lodge A.F. and A.M., Iowa. His remains were buried with Masonic honors, after which the undersigned Committee was appointed to draft a suitable preamble and resolutions, which are as follows:

“WHEREAS, It has pleased the Grand Master of the Universe to remove our Brother, James East, from this transitory state of existence to one of endless duration, therefore be it resolved, 1st, That while the great principles of Masonry teach us to bow with submission to the will of Devine Providence, and to kiss the rod that smites us, yet we deeply feel the loss of our Brother, and cannot refrain a tear to his memory. 2d, That in the death of Brother East, society has lost a good citizen and Masonry a zealous friend. 3d, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Montana Post for publication, and a copy also be sent to Clement Lodge. Mathew McGuirk, John Stevens, Mark A. Moore, Committee.” (*Montana Post*, Virginia City, 12/2/1865)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Evans, Jessie B.

“DIED. At Unionville, M.T. March 14th, of Pneumonia, Jessie B. Evans, aged 65 years, formerly a resident of Platteville, Wis. The deceased came to Montana the summer of 1865 crossing the plains from the States in the train commanded by Capt. J.A. Zeiger, of this city. He was once a partner of Mr. Hoyt, in the blacksmithing business on lower Main Street, and was engaged at his trade at Unionville up to the time of his illness which has taken him from the earth. Mr. Evans was an industrious, upright man, and highly

esteemed by all who know him. His funeral took place this afternoon.”
(*Helena Weekly Herald*, 3/18/1869)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery about 2/23/1871.

Farley, Philip

“Another Victim of Frost. – On Sunday, February 18th, the body of a man was brought into town, and recognized as Philip Farley, of Silver Creek. The nose, one cheek and an ear were eaten off by birds and mice, which greatly disfigured the body, and it was difficult for his friends to recognize him. Large holes were also made in his body, it is supposed, by mice. He had on a pair of buckskin gloves, rubber boots with leather soles, buckskin breeches and a light colored coat. A son of Mr. Vivion, near Silver Creek, first discovered the body. A week or two previously, a horse, saddle and bridle were found, but no clue to the owner could be discovered. He had been on the Sun river stampede, and met his fate during the extremely cold and stormy weather of January. He was formerly of Colorado, and had lived in Summit District, Alder Gulch. The body had evidently been two or three weeks in the snow.” (*The Montana Post*, Virginia city, Montana Territory, 2/24/1866)

Gardiner, James

James died in a mine accident on 2/19/1868.

“Fatal Accident. – A man named James Gardiner was caved in on while running a drift for a drain ditch in Oregon gulch, on Wednesday last, and had his neck broken. Notwithstanding the utmost exertions were used by his fellow miners, the body remained buried for eighteen hours. The deceased was an Englishman, and had been in this country but a few years. His remains were brought to this city (Helena) for interment, and were buried on Friday last.” (*The Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana Territory, 2/29/1868)

Gartley, Andrew

“Bloody Affray – Man Murdered. – Wednesday afternoon, 29th ult. [11/29/1865] at Geo. Price’s saloon, near Owyhee Park, an altercation occurred between a man named Andrew Gartley and James B. Daniels, which resulted in the death of the former. The parties were engaged in a ‘poker game.’ A dispute arose; and, after some words, Daniels sprang from his seat for the purpose of attack, when Gartley pushed or knocked him

against the stove. Daniels, recovering himself, drew his revolver, which Gartley grasped, thereby saving his life from being taken by lead, but only to be lost by steel; for Daniels, with his left hand, drew from his scabbard an eight-inch blade, and stabbed Gartley twice – the first thrust being into the breast, the second the groin. Gartley ran across to Mr. Price’s dwelling house, crying that he was ‘murdered,’ followed by Daniels – as if determined upon being satisfied of the fatality of his bloody work – pistol in hand. In his pursuit of Daniels, he was stopped by one of his own friends; but, upon threatening to shoot the interfering party, he was allowed to proceed. Daniels escaped to the hills; but was captured a short time after, and is now in the hands of justice. Gartley died at eight o’clock Tuesday night. The arresting parties are entitled to much credit for their promptitude and energy. He was immediately placed in the custody of Acting United States Marshal Neil Howie. Another Terrible warning to young men against the temptations of the bar and the gaming-table.” (*The Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana Territory, 12/9/1865)

For more information on James Daniels, read *More From The Quarries Of Last Chance Gulch*, by Jon Axline, page 12-15.

Gartley, Mrs.

She died in March 1866 from a broken heart because her husband had been killed by James Daniels on 11/29/1865. (*The Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana Territory, 3/17/1866)

Gist, William Jasper

William was born in Missouri about 1835. On 10/16/1865 at age 30 he died from typhoid fever.

“Died. At Helena City, October 16th, 1865, William Jasper Gist, in the 30th year of his age, of typhoid fever. Deceased was a native of Monitor County, Missouri, where he resided till he came to this Territory (about two years ago). Since then he has resided in Nevada City, where he was in business during last winter. From thence he came to Helena City, in the Spring. His wife and infant child came up on the steamer Benton, last Spring. She was an orphan from the age of three years, and is now left a widow in a strange land, without means. Everything was done for the deceased during his sickness that medical skill or attentive nurses could devise. At his request, he was buried with Masonic honors by the fraternity of Helena City, October 17th, 1865. Deceased was a member of California Lodge No. 25, Monitor

County, Missouri. The following resolutions were adopted by the Masons of Helena City, through their committee, upon the occasion of his death: . . . Chas. C. Farmer, James Spires, and J. C. Hutchison, Committee members. (*The Montana Post*, 11/4/1865)

Glenn, Hugh

Hugh was born in Pennsylvania about 1831. He worked as a shoemaker while in Helena. His wife's name was Mattie. On 3/21/1870 he died from consumption at age 38.

“Died. In this city, on the morning of the 21st inst., Mr. Hugh Glenn, of consumption.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 3/21/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Goncert, Henry

Henry was born in 1835 and died at age 35 on 7/7/1870.

“The Broadway Tragedy. A German Named Goncert Commits Suicide. Insanity the Probable Cause. Verdict of the Coroner's Jury. A melancholy and somewhat singular case of suicide occurred in this city about three o'clock yesterday afternoon, a brief account of which appeared in last evening's Herald. The particulars relating to this sad tragedy as we have been able to learn them are substantially as follows: A young man employed in the millinery establishment of Mrs. Aron, on Broadway, had occasion to step into the boot and shoe shop of Henry Goncert, on the first floor of the Whitlatch building, formerly occupied by Messrs. Hoyt & Babcock as a real estate office. In a corner of the back room, lying on the floor, he saw Goncert, and supposing him to be asleep approached and found his head and face all besmeared with blood. Horror stricken at the sight, he ran over to Mr. Donaldson's store and called him and others to witness the scene. They accompanied the young man to the shop and there found the body of the deceased as stated. A large crowd assembled, and Justice Totten was notified, who immediately summoned a Coroner's jury and held an inquest. The following is the verdict of the jury:

“At the Whitlatch buildings, in the county of Lewis and Clark, on the 7th day of July, A. D. 1870, before me, O. B. Totten, Justice of the Peace and acting Coroner of said county, upon the body of Henry Goncert, there lying dead,

by the jurors, upon their oaths do say that the said Henry Goncert came to his death by a pistol shot fired from his own hands, and that no person is to blame therefore. Henry Thompson, Wm. M. Jack, N. H. Webster, Hamilton McBirney, John Stranney, Wm. F. Wentworth.

“Goncert bought a stock of leather, about \$3,000 worth and commenced business some three months ago. He was doing very well, and reputed to be in tolerable good circumstances. The rash act, therefore, which has resulted in his untimely end can hardly be attributed to financial troubles. In conversation with a friend two or three days ago he stated that he was dissatisfied with his business; that he was doing nothing, or at least, not so well as he anticipated, and that he would like to sell out and return to the States. The deceased also said, that a few years ago he had fell from a building and injured his head, and that ever since his mind had been more or less affected; complained that he had no friends, and that his habits were of such a repulsive nature as to prevent him forming acquaintances. A letter was found in the drawer of his work-bench, setting forth his manifold troubles, not the least of which was a secret malady contracted in Chicago some time ago, and which he believed to be incurable. On his person was found \$104 in currency and \$10 in gold dust. Henry Goncert was about 35 years of age, a German by birth, and came to the United States in 1864, and owned some property in this city in 1867, which he sold. He afterwards opened a shop in Jefferson gulch, and the next year in McClellan. Last Fall he was in Gold Creek, where he left a stock of goods and went to the States, remained during the winter and returned this spring. This is about all that is known of his history up to the time of the melancholy tragedy which eventuated in his death. The deceased was buried in the cemetery, near this city, at 10 o’clock to-day.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 7/8/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Goodrich, G. H.

“Died. This morning, at the residence of Mr. Almy, near Bridge street, Mr. G. H. Goodrich, of quick consumption. The funeral will take place from the residence above mentioned, at 10 o’clock to-morrow morning. Friends and citizens generally are invited to attend. Mr. Goodrich was a young man of most estimable qualities of head and heart, and had attached himself to all who knew him. The deceased came from Ohio to this Territory several years ago. He was formerly a partner, (but lately a clerk and salesman,) of Geo.

Mann. Another leaf is fallen; another fellow mortal in the prime of his youth, is gathered to his fathers!" (*Helena Weekly Herald*, 4/23/1868)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Guest, James H.

U.S. Civil War Soldiers: James H. Guest, Union side, Michigan state, 1 Michigan Cavalry, 1st Regiment, Michigan Cavalry, C, M company, private in, private out, enlisted in 1864.

"Found Dead – On Friday morning last, a young man by the name of James H. Guest, who had been idling about the city for several weeks, was found dead, in the loft of Montee's stable, where he had been permitted to lodge for some time. An informal inquest was held over the corpse, but no particular report was rendered. It was evident, however, that the deceased had taken poison and died from the effects of it. He had been a volunteer in the 1st Michigan Cavalry, had served two years, and was discharged at Fort Bridger, Utah Terr., in March, 1866. The young man was one of a number who came to Montana as teamsters in an ox train from Bridger. We glean these facts from a member of Mr. Guest's old company while in the service; and who also tells us that the mother of his unfortunate comrade resides somewhere in Michigan." (*Helena Herald Supplement*, 3/14/1867)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Harris, George

George died on 11/2/1865.

"On Thursday morning, as George Harris, a native of Prussia, was handling a loaded gun, it accidentally exploded, and discharged six balls into his left breast. According to his dying request, he was buried by his brother Masons. The solemnities were impressive." (*Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana, 11/11/1865)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Hays, Sammy

Sammy died on 9/4/1867.

“Funeral of Hays. – The funeral of Sammy Hays (colored) who was killed by the Irishman, John Leech, on election day, took place in this city yesterday afternoon. The colored people of the city turned out *en masse*, and a long line of carriages followed the deceased to his last resting place. It was the most imposing ceremony of the kind ever participated in by the colored residents of Helena.” (*Helena Weekly Herald*, 9/5/1867)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Hereford, Flora

Little Flora was born in 1870 and died on 2/3/1870.

“Died. In this city, on February 3d, 1870, Flora, infant daughter of Robert and Linda Hereford.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 2/4/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Jewell, William

William was born in 1831 and died 11/13/1868 at age 37.

“Died. In Oregon gulch, M. T., Nov. 13, 1868, of consumption, William Jewell, a native of Cornwall, England, aged 37 years. Mr. Jewell was formerly a resident of Grass Valley, California, where it is believed he has friends residing. Grass Valley papers please copy.” (*The Montana Post* Virginia City, Montana Territory, 11/20/1868)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery and buried in Section C.

Kanouse, Emma W.

Little Emma was born in 1868 and died on 10/2/1868 at 7 months of age. She was the daughter of Jacob and Sarah A. Kanouse.

Moved to Benton Avenue
Cemetery.



Keene, John “Johnny” aka Bob Black

First to be hanged on the Hangman’s Tree in Dry Gulch on 6/7/1865 for the shooting of Henry Slater.

1865, June 17: *Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana:

(From our Special Reporter. [D. W. Tilton].)

Murder of Harry Slater.

Helena, M.T., June 8th, 1865, 11 a.m.

At a few minutes past seven this evening, a man names John Keene, who used to be bar-keeper for Sam. Schwab in the Montana Billiard Hall, last summer, shot one Harry Slater, in the doorway of Sam. Greer’s Saloon, on Bridge street. Keene fired two shots, the first taking effect over the outside corner of the right eye, ranging downward and producing instant death.

The murderer instantly put up his pistol, and turned at a brisk gait into an alley below the scene of bloodshed. He gave himself up to Charlie Curtis, and was by him turned over into the hands of Sheriff Wood, who, not having a better place of confinement for the prisoner, took him into his own house and placed him under a strong guard.

Strong manifestations of disgust were shown by the crowd, which soon collected in front of the temporary prison, and a committee at once formed to give the murdered a hasty trial. Sheriff Wood, with what deputies he could gather around him in a few moments, sternly and resolutely refused to deliver the prisoner into the hands of the committee, and at the same time made the most urgent and earnest appeal to those demanding the culprit, but finally, being carried by main force from his post, and overpowered by superior numbers, his prisoner was taken from him.

A court room was soon improvised in an adjacent lumber yard, the prisoner marched into it, and the trial immediately commenced, Steph. Reynolds presiding, and the jury composed of Messrs. Judge Burchett, (Foreman), S. M. Hall, _____ French, A. F. Edwards, _____ Nichols, S. Kayser, Ed. Porter, _____ Shears, Maj. Hutchinson, C. C. Farmer and Ed. House.

No great formality was observed in the commencement of the impromptu trial. Dr. Palmer, Chas. Greer and Sam. Greer were sworn to testify. Dr. Palmer started to give his evidence, when he was interrupted by the culprit getting up and making a statement of the whole affair, and asserting that he acted in self-defense, as the deceased was in the act of rising with his hand on his pistol, and had threatened to take his life, and on a former occasion in Great Salt Lake City, had put a Derringer into his mouth.

A Mr. Brobrecker then got up and made some very appropriate remarks, cautioning the men on the jury not to be too hasty, but to well and truly perform their duty; weigh the evidence and give a verdict such as their conscience would hereafter approve.

Sam. Greer then testified to being an eye witness of the deed. Heard the first shot; did not think anybody was hit; told Keene to "hold on," when he saw Slater fall over; did not hear any words exchanged by the parties; did not know for certain whether the prisoner was the man who shot Slater.

Prisoner – I am the gentleman.

Dr. Palmer said that when he made an examination of the deceased he did not find a pistol in his scabbard.

Sam. Greer – The pistol was put into my hands, and placed behind the bar by me, after the shooting took place.

Charlie Greer, (sworn) – I have been sick lately, and was too excited to make any close observation; was not more than three or four feet from the party killed when the shooting occurred; thought the man was shooting at some dogs in the saloon.

Charles French (sworn) – says: Came down street; stopped first door below Lyon’s barber shop, at BARNED’S clothing store; saw a man coming up street toward Greer’s saloon; heard some one cry, “Don’t shoot, John; you’ll hurt somebody.” Soon after, saw the man shoot; thought he was only firing off his pistol to scare somebody but saw the deceased man fall, and the other go down street and turn into an alley. Don’t know the man that fired the shots.

Q. Is this the man?

A. Cannot tell; it is too dark. (A candle was brought.) I think it is the same man; I am pretty certain it is.

Dr. Palmer again testified: The deceased was shot over the right eye; never spoke, and died in three minutes after being shot.

James Binns, (sworn) – Was on the opposite side of the street; heard the first shot fired, and saw the second one. Heard Greer say, “hold on,” and was the man fall over, and the other go through the alley.

[Calls by the crowd for James Parker.]

James Parker, (sworn) – Keene overtook me, to-day, on the summit, coming from Blackfoot. We rode together. He inquired of me whether Slater was in town, and told me of some difficulty existing between them, originating in Salt Lake City; Slater having thrust a Derringer into his mouth, and ran him out of the city.

Prisoner here got up and said – That he told Parker he hoped he should not see Slater, as he did not want any difficulty with him, or some such conversation.

Jas. Geero—(Hogal) called for, (sworn) – [Here the wind extinguished our candle, and being in the open air, before we could relight it, we missed all

the testimony but the last words. – Reporter.] Know nothing about the shooting affair.

At this moment a voice in the crowd was heard crying: “John Keene, come here,” – which caused the guards to close around the prisoner.

Mr. Philips, (sworn) – Don’t know anything about the affair; but saw Slater fall. Don’t know who fired. Know what Jem Geero says to be true. Saw Slater sit in this position, (here Mr. P. showed the position Slater was in when shot); saw Slater sitting in the door; did not see him have a revolver.

Prisoner asked to have some witnesses sent for; he said that the original cause of his trouble with Slater was his taking Tom. Baum and Ed. Copeland’s part in the conversation about the Vigilance Committee of last year. Slater than called him a Vigilante s—o—b—, and drove him out of town; this was in Salt Lake City. Then he went to Virginia City, and from there to Blackfoot. Slater was a dangerous man; had killed two men in Boise. He said that he had gone to work at mining in Blackfoot and came over to Helena on this day to see a man – Harlow. “When I first saw Slater to-day he smacked my face with both hands, and called me a d—d Irish s—o—b—, and said he would make me leave town; that he went and borrowed a revolver of Walsh.” He requested them to send for an Irishman names “Mike,” who words on the brickyard, and who heard the last conversation. He wanted Mr. Phillips to give a little more testimony.

Mr. P. – I know him to go armed and equipped; saw him draw a weapon on a former occasion; saw him make a man jump down twenty pair of stairs.

Motion of the jury to retire. Cries of “aye,” and “No; go on with the trial” A voice – “Send for Kelly, the man who was talking to Slater at the time he was shot.” Cries of, “Mr. Kelly! Mr. Kelly,” and “Dave St. John.” Neither of these men could be found.

A motion to increase the number of the guard to forty was carried.

Prisoner again asked to have men sent for his witnesses.

Jack Edwards – I am willing to wait till morning for the continuance of the trial, but the guard must be increased; I hear mutterings in the crowd about a rescue.

A Voice – It can't be done.

Prisoner – I want a fair and just trial.

Preparations were now made for a strong guard, forming a ring around the prisoner.

Objections were raised at this juncture to whispering going on between the culprit and his friends.

A report came in that the Irish brickmaker could not be found at his shanty.

A motion to guard the prisoner till morning to give him time to procure witnesses was lost but being afterwards reconsidered, it was finally carried.

Judge ___ Bond then got up, and in a short and able speech to the jury, advised them to hear more testimony before convicting the prisoner. He also proposed the hour of 8 A.M., next day, for the meeting of the jury, and the hour of 9 A.M. for their bringing in their verdict.

This latter proposition was agreed to, and the prisoner taken in charge by the guard.

The dense crowd slowly dispersed, talking in a less bloodthirsty strain than they had done three or four hours before.

Second Day.

The morning dawned serenely upon a large concourse of people, standing before the prison and in front of the California Exchange – the place selected for a jury room.

The jury met a few minutes past 8 A.M., and Mr. Boyden was sent for, and the examination of witnesses resumed.

Mr. B., (sworn) – I have known Keene from childhood; knew his parents and relatives; met Keene yesterday on the street; did not know him at first sight, until he spoke to me; told me that he was looking for a gentleman in town who had, as an act of kindness, taken up some claims for him; was

walking up street with me, then stopped to shake hands with a man named Kelly, who was sitting on some logs in the street; when we left him, Keene walked faster than I did, and was a few steps ahead of me; when in front of Greer's saloon, I saw a man sitting in the door, (Greer's); did not see Keene draw his revolver, but saw the first shot fired, and heard Keene say, "You d—d s—o—b—h, you have ruined me in Salt Lake City." This was said after the shouting. Do you think Slater saw Keene at all. Slater was sitting down; I was about five feet from both men; John Keene was about ten feet from Slater.

Q. Was Kelly with you at that time?

A. No; Kelly never left the place; he shook hands with Keene.

Q. Do you know anything about his character?

A. I have known him for about ten years; he left St. Paul about eighteen months ago; know nothing about his course or conduct since that time; he was considered a fast young man, but good and kind-hearted; when I conversed with him, yesterday, he spoke about a man that had ruined him in Salt Lake City, but he did not mention any names; I did not know anything of the particulars of his (prisoner's) former difficulties with Slater; never saw Slater and Keene together.

Michael McGregor, (sworn) – I saw Keene in the afternoon; he came to me, in the flat, (a point in the lower part of the gulch), shook hands with me, and then left for town; did not know of the difficulty between Slater and Keene; Keene never spoke to me about it.

D. St. John, (sworn) – don't know anything about the shooting affair; was fifteen miles from here when it took place. [The witness here gave some testimony not bearing directly on the case, which was not admitted.]

This closed the examination. The jury went into secret session.

At ten minutes to 10 o'clock, the jury came from their room to the place of trial, in the lumber yard where preparations were made immediately for the reception of the prisoner.

At ten o'clock the culprit made his appearance on the ground, under an escort of about fifty well armed men. A circle was formed by the guard and the prisoner placed in the center. His appearance was not that of a man likely to die in a few minutes. He looked bravely around the crowd, nodding here and there to his acquaintances, and calling them by name. Capt. Florman having detailed his guard, gave the word, "all ready." The Foreman of the jury then opened the sealed verdict: "We, the jury, in the case of the people of Montana versus John Keene, find him guilty of murder in the first degree."

A voice – What shall be done?

Several voices in the crowd – Hang him! hang him!

The President here rose and said that he wished to hear some expression of the public sentiment or motions in the case. [Calls for Col. Johnson.] The Colonel addressed the assembly in an appropriate speech, which was followed by a few short and pertinent remarks from Judge Bond.

On motion of A. J. Edwards, the testimony of Messrs. Boyden and Michael McGregor was read, and thereupon Judge Lawrence rose and said he was sure Keene had all the chances for a fair trial he could have wished, and motioned to carry the jury's verdict into execution. Passes.

The prisoner here got up and said: "All I wanted was a fair and just trial; I think I have got it, and death is my doom; but I want time to settle up my business; I am not trying to get away."

He was granted an hour's time to prepare for his execution. The Committee fixed the hour of execution at 11 ½ o'clock A.M. Keene remarked that he hadn't any money to pay expenses – and was told that it should not cost him a cent. The guard now took charge of the doomed man, and escorted him to an adjacent house, in order that he might arrange his affairs.

At 11 A.M., crowds of people could be seen ascending the hill north of Helena, and not a small number of ladies were perceptible in the throng. The place of execution was chosen with due regard to convenience and economy – a large pine tree, with stout limbs, standing almost alone, in a shallow ravine, was selected for a gallows.

At 11:50, the criminal, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. McLaughlin, arrived in a lumber wagon. A dry goods box and two planks, to form the trap, were in the same vehicle. The unfortunate victim of his unbridled passions sat astride of one of the planks, his countenance exhibiting the utmost unconcern, and on his arrival at the tree, he said: "My honor compelled me to do what I have done." He then bade "good bye" to some of his acquaintance. The wagon having been adjusted so as to bring the hind axle under the rope, a plank was laid from the dry goods box to another plank set up on end, and the trap was ready.

At four minutes to twelve o'clock, the prisoner's arms were pinioned, and he was assisted to mount the wagon. Standing on the frail platform, he said, in a loud and distinct voice: "What I have done, my honor compelled me to do. Slater ran me from Salt Lake City to Virginia, and from there to this country. He slapped me in the face here yesterday; and I was advised by my friends to arm myself. When Slater saw me, he said: "There is the Irish s—o—b—h; he has not left town yet." Then I commenced firing; my honor compelled me to do what I have done." Here he called for a drink of water, which was procured as speedily as it could be brought to the top of the hill. He took a long, deep draught of the water, and the rope was adjusted round his neck. A handkerchief being thrown over his face, he raised his hand to it and said: "What are you putting that there for? Take it off." Stepping to the end of the trap, he said: "What I have done to Slater, I have done willingly. He punished me severely. Honor compelled me to do what I have done. He run me from town to town; I tried to shun him here, but he saw me – called me a s—o—b—h, and smacked me in the face. I did not want any trouble with him; my honor compelled me, etc., (repeating the same words as before). I am here, and must die; and if I was to live till to-morrow, I would do the same thing. I AM READY; JERK THE CART AS SOON AS YOU PLEASE."

At 7 minutes past 12, the wagon started, the trap fell and Keene was launched into eternity. He fell 3 ½ feet, without breaking his neck. A few spasmodic struggles, for three or four minutes, were all that was perceptible of his dying struggle. After hanging half an hour, he was cut down and taken in charge by his friends.

So ended the first tragedy in this city. May it be the last. The execution was conducted by Mr. J. X Biedler, and everything went off in a quiet and

orderly manner. Many familiar faces, known to Virginia men in the trying times of the winter of '64, were visible.

(*Rocky Mountain
Husbandman*, 2/3/1879)

Moved to Benton Avenue
Cemetery in 1879.

ALL old residents will recollect the first murder that took place in the summer of 1865. The circumstances in brief were these: Harry Slater was killed while sitting in front of a saloon near where the clothing house of Gans & Klein now stands, by Johnny Keene, who had followed his victim from Salt Lake. The cause of their quarrel is not remembered by us, but that is not necessary for the purpose of this article. Keene was given a fair trial and hang by the citizens, and the assassin and his victim were buried side by side. Yesterday, while workmen were engaged in removing the bodies from the old burial ground, the two graves were opened. The remains of Slater had crumbled to dust, but those of Keene, strange to say, were almost as perfect as the day they were placed in the coffin. The features are so perfect that they are easily recognized, and the hair remains on the head and has not even changed in color.—*Independent*.

Kirby, Cornelius

“Still Another. – Tuesday morning found another man “dangling in the air,” on the same old tree. No label told the cause of his death. On inquiry, we learned his name was Con. Kirby, and that he hailed from the other side (Boise.) The good people of Helena have a way of doing these matters of necessity, with a quiet determination which is very praiseworthy.” (*Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana, October 7, 1865)

1939, July 12: *Montana Record-Herald*:

18 EXECUTIONS HAVE BEEN PERFORMED IN THIS COUNTY
HANGMAN’S TREE WAS GALLOWS FIRST 10 CASES
Last Man Executed in County Was Lynched by Mob in 1901.

Con Kirby.

Next in order was Con Kirby “Kirby,” the *Post* says “hailed from Boise, and was a ‘hard case.’ No placard told the why of his execution.

The *Post*, however, commented, “The good people of Helena have a way of doing these matters of necessity with a quiet determination which is praiseworthy.” Kirby was hanged Oct. 3, 1865.

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Lewis, E. P.

E. P. died on 6/9/1865.

“Helena Items. Distressing occurrence. – It is with the most unfeigned sorry that we record the death of Judge Lewis, by his own hand, on Friday night. The particulars of the sad affair were communicated to us by Mr. James Gilchrist, who was in bed with the Judge when the fatal shot was fired. It appears that Judge Lewis, Mr. Gilchrist, and two other gentlemen were on their way from Silver Bow to Fort Benton, with the intention of joining the volunteers who had gone to protect the immigrants from Indian depredations. They left Silver Bow on Tuesday, June 6th, and laid over Wednesday and Thursday in Cottonwood, where our unfortunate friend complained of nausea; but he seemed to feel quite well on Friday, when the company pursued their journey. In the afternoon of the same day, the Judge showed unmistakable signs of insanity, imagining himself the object of revenge of some unknown enemies. The party went to camp early in the evening, about ten miles from Helena, and one mile below the mouth of St. Louis Gulch. After an hour after the Judge had lain down for the night with Mr. Gilchrist, he spoke in a wandering manner; his companion heard him say, ‘Before they shall take my life, I will end my existence.’ Mr. Gilchrist immediately drew back the blankets, and saw a revolver lying on the Judge’s breast, and pointing towards his chin. He was persuaded to abandon the execution of his bloody purpose for the time, but soon got up, left his revolver on the bed, and went along the bank of the creek on which they were encamped, saying he wanted to look for the men whose voices he imagined that he had heard. Mr. G. immediately secured the revolver, and removed, (as he supposed), all the caps. Judge Lewis came back, went to bed, lay quiet for a while, and Mr. G. had fallen asleep, when he was aroused by the Judge’s remarks: ‘Send word to Judge Irvine. Here goes,’ – ended by the report of the revolver. Mr. Gilchrist not thinking it possible for the revolver to go off, after the removal of the caps, and the deed being done with incredible quickness, had not time to prevent the fatal act. The pistol was held so close that the shirt which the Judge wore was burnt on the bosom. The ball entered under the chin and passed through the roof of the

mouth, shattering the bones over the left eye, and came out at the top of the head, causing instant death. The body was brought into town on Saturday morning, and taken in charge by his friends.” (*Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana, 6/17/1865)

“News was received here on Saturday last, of the suicide of E. P. Lewis, Recorder of this county, in St. Louis gulch, ten miles from Helena, on the evening of the 9th inst. The cause of this unhappy affair is not known. Mr. Lewis leaves a large circle of warm and attached friends in this community to mourn his loss. The Recorder’s office for this county is closed until the appointment of his successor. (Judge Irvin since appointed.)” (*The Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana, 6/24/1865)

It is unknown at this time if he was buried in Helena.

Lyman, Mary E. (Hawkins)

Mary was born in Vermont in 1831, the daughter of W. S. Hawkins. She was the first wife of Lorenzo Branch Lyman. On 1/18/1870 she died from epilepsy.

“The funeral of Mrs. Lyman will not take place before Friday.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 1/19/1870)

“Lyman. – At her residence in Helena, Jan. 18, 1870, of epilepsy, Mrs. Mary E. H. Lyman, wife of L. B. Lyman, Esq., aged 37 years and 8 months.” (*The New North-West*, Deer Lodge, Montana, 1/21/1970)

Moved to Benton Avenue
Cemetery about 3/10/1871.



Macdonald, Maria

Maria was born in England on 5/15/1835. On 1/17/1870 she died from typhoid fever at age 34 years 8 months 2 days.

“Died. In this city, at ten o’clock p.m., on the 17th inst., Maria, wife of Frederick Macdonald, aged 34 years, 8 months and 2 days. Funeral from her residence on Myrtle Avenue at one o’clock p.m. to-morrow. Territorial Enterprise and Sacramento Union please copy.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 1/18/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Marks, George

George was born about 1830. On 4/3/1870 he died at age 40.

“The Marks’ Suicide – Verdict of the Coroner’s Jury. Yesterday, we gave the particulars, as we got them from Mr. Kessler, of the suicide of George Marks, at ‘Ten Mile Brewery.’ On the person of the deceased was found the following piece of manuscript, supposed to have been written by himself: ‘Suffering from an hallucination and enfeebled mind, brought many troubles on me of late; it seems as though my brain is on fire – yet I wish those persons whom I have offended will forgive me, considering the circumstances in which I was unhappily placed. Ill health is the cause of my greatest misfortunes.’ A Coroner’s inquest was held over the dead body, and the following is the verdict of the jury: Territory of Montana, } SS. County of Lewis and Clarke,} An inquisition holden at the house of N. Kessler, in the county of Lewis and Clark, in the Territory of Montana, on the 3d day of April, A.D. 1870, before me, O.B. Totten, a Justice of the Peace, within and for said county, acting as Coroner thereof, upon the body of George Marks, there lying dead, by the jurors whose names are hereunto subscribed, the said jurors, on their oaths, do say, that the said deceased came to his death by means of a pistol shot discharged from his own hand, on the 3d day of April, 1870, and that at the time of his suicide the deceased was insane, and no blame is attached to any person therefore. In testimony whereof the said jurors have hereunto set their hands, the day and year aforesaid. C.M. Travis, Sam. Schwab, George Seymour, Rufus Payne, A.T. Allen, Michael Kelly.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 4/5/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Marsh, Bennett

Bennett died on 3/25/1870.

“A Probable Suicide: On Monday afternoon, between the hours of five and six o’clock, p.m., a man by the name of Bennett Marsh, was found dead in the cabin of Messrs. Pease & Ward, situated on Bowery Gulch, some two or three hundred yards east of Dry Gulch, and a short distance to the left of the main stage road leading to Virginia City. He was a native of the State of Connecticut, about 50 years of age, and unmarried. He had been sick for a long time, and there is no doubt but that he had become insane from disease and the powerful medicine he was taking. He was a locksmith by trade, and had worked for a man by the name of Gaylord, somewhere in Connecticut, in the year 1847. He had for several years, after leaving Mr. Gaylord, acted as a traveling agent for some firm in Connecticut, in the selling of hardware and buggies, throughout the Southern States and the western part of the State of New York. He left the East for California some time during 1853, and soon after his arrival there settled down in Pine Grove, Sierra County, where he remained until 1858, after which time he worked in different mining regions in that State. He had also worked in Oro Fino and Boise Basin, Idaho Territory, and finally, arrived in Helena, last October. Mr. Pease informs us that the deceased and himself had been discussing and comparing notes on the state of affairs throughout the country, while at dinner, and at that time he appeared to be in good spirits and perfectly sane. Mr. P. was horrified on entering his cabin, to find Marsh lying dead upon the floor in a pool of blood. Mr. P. says that Marsh had undoubtedly taken a navy six-shooter out of a pair of holsters and loaded it himself, then placing the muzzle of it to the left side of his head, just above the temple, no doubt pulled the trigger. He had evidently attempted to steady the pistol with his left hand, and in so doing, had got the fleshy part of the hand over the muzzle, causing the ball to pass through it into his head and coming out at the crown.” (*Helena Herald Supplement*, 3/28/1867)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Mather, Silas P. aka Cyrus P.

Silas was born in Wisconsin. He is listed in the 1870 Census, Helena, as Silas Mather. He was living with his brother William, his sister-in-law, Millie, and nephew Frank. On August 29, 1870, he died at his brother’s house at age 22. His funeral was held the following day from the M.E. Church on Broadway. (*Helena Daily Herald*, 8/29/1870)

“Died. Mather – In Helena, August 30th, C. P. Mather.” (*The New North-West*, 9/2/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery

McLaughlin, William B.

William was born about 1842 and died on 2/25/1867 at about 25 years.

Also spelled McLothlin.

“HORRIBLE MURDER! The city was startled yesterday, about 1 p.m. by the information that a man was lying about three-fourths of a mile north of the town, shot through the head, and had been dead some time. There was an immediate rush of people to the place, and, no doubt, many more would have gone, had it not been conjectured that the report was a ‘sell.’ We joined the throng, and on reaching the place, found it to be true. Dr. Yager, coroner, immediately empanelled the following named persons as jurors: N. J. Davis, foreman, and Messrs Culver, Bartlett, Ousterhouser, Pfouts and Shannon. After a preliminary examination of the deceased man, the body was conveyed to the city, and the jury adjourned to meet in the Probate court-room at half-past four in the afternoon, where the inquest was held in secret. The following are the particulars, as far as we are informed: The deceased was named William McLothlin; was a laboring man, about twenty-five years of age, and unmarried. He came here from Lawrence, Kansas, where his parents reside, during last autumn, and has since been employed as a common laborer, in such occupation as he could find. He, in company with another man, occupied a cabin on Jackson street near the upper end of town. He was temperate in his habits and had no personal enmity with any one. On Thursday last, his cabin was closed; and no one knew anything of him until he was found to-day by Mr. McCloskey. When found, he was lying on his face with a bullet hole in his head, the ball having entered through the back part and lodged in the brain. The hat was still on his head, and, where the ball passed through, was powder-burned. On examination of the body, a navy revolver with all the chambers loaded was found upon him. In his pocket was \$5.15, in currency, which, it is supposed, is all the money he had. His pockets had not been disturbed; nor was there any sign of a struggle in the snow. He lay almost perfectly straight on the ground and had not moved from the position in which he fell. The suggestion of a suicide is an impossibility. There were two tracks in the snow to where he lay – but one away from it. This also explodes the suggestion of him being murdered in the city, and conveyed there. The entire affair is, as yet, shrouded in almost impenetrable mystery, and it is to be hoped that the coroner's jury will elicit

information that may lead to the detection of whoever committed this brutal deed. The jury is still in session at the present writing.” (*The Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana, 2/23/1867)

“THE MURDER. – The Coroner’s jury on the inquest in regard to Wm. B. McLothlin have not yet returned a verdict. There have been quite a number of witnesses examined, and further examination has failed to elicit anything that would lead to a conclusion. A post mortem examination of the body revealed a fact hitherto unsuspected. The deceased was shot twice, the first shot entering the breast, and lodging in the spinal column was sufficient to cause almost instant death. The shot in the head, was fired after the victim was down, and was intended to ‘render assurance doubly sure.’ The remains were decently interred in the burial ground, on Wednesday. We are informed that there are no suspicions on the mind of the jury as to who the perpetrator was, and the entire affair is enveloped in mystery.” (*The Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana, 2/23/1867)

“A Felonious Homicide. The body of one Wm. McLaughlin, was found about three fourths of a mile north of this city on Monday last, with a pistol shot through his head. This incident startled our quiet community very much, and a swift retribution would undoubtedly be administered to the guilty party if they could only be found, but up to the hour of writing, the whole affair remains wrapped in an impenetrable mystery – as nothing has yet been elicited by the Coroner’s inquest – which is yet at work. A great many wild rumors are current in regard to it. One – an old story – a woman – a rival with the green monster in his bosom – then – ‘the last scene of all in this strange eventful history’ – revenge and death. The murdered man, who came here last year, is represented as young, industrious, sober and honest, and whatever induced him to visit the remote spot where he was undoubtedly killed, and what circumstances brought about his death time, the unraveller of all things alone will tell.” (*Helena Herald*, 2/28/1867)

“VERDICT – The Coroner’s Jury empaneled on the inquest of Wm. B. McLothlin, returned a verdict on Saturday that: ‘The deceased came to his death from the effects of a pistol shot, fired by some person or persons unknown to the jury.’ After the rendering of the verdict, the jury were discharged by the Coroner. We believe we are correct in saying, that after hearing all the evidence on the matter, the jury were fully justified in the decision they gave. The numerous reports current about the implication of certain parties and no indubitable evidence of their guilt, could not be

sustained when the witnesses were examined under oath. The murderer of McLothlin is still alive but we hope not at liberty, as the villain, whoever he is, is an adept at murder. His success in decoying the deceased to the out of the way place where he was killed, and in killing him before he had time to draw the loaded revolver in his belt, shows that he is treacherous, crafty and had thoroughly planned the 'deep damnation of his taking off.' While a heartless villain remains in our midst, no man's life is safe, and it is nothing more than justice requires that some inducement should be offered to competent persons to ferret him out and bring him to justice. This thing should not be forgotten until another and another is added to this list of victims, as it seems likely to be from the apathy that is shown in the matter. Justice to the living and the dead alike requires action – and it is offering a premium to crime to abandon the attempt to discover the perpetrator.” (*The Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana, 3/2/1867)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

McMinn, Gus.

Gus died 4/17/1870 about 25 or 35 years of age.

“A Mysterious Suicide. Suicides in Montana are becoming frequent of late. It was only two weeks ago, we gave an account of the German who shot himself at the Ten Mile Brewery, and now we have the painful to record another duty so peculiar that it may be said the affair is still shrouded in mystery. We have endeavored to get all the information possible and are enabled to sum up as follows. About 9 o'clock yesterday morning a man in Holmes' gulch, came into town, and stated that he saw a man lying dead in the road leading to that gulch, and about one mile from Helena. This information was given to Justice Totten, who immediately summoned a Coroner's jury and proceeded to the place as directed. The dead man lay on the roadside as represented by Griffin, but no one could recognize him. He was shot through the head, the ball having entered the right temple and passed through the left. It seems that he was lying on his right side when found, with a Colt's revolver near his head and somewhat stained by blood; he had on a beaver coat and pants, dark striped cassimere shirt, but no hat or cap, left glove on but right one off and lying by his side. An inquest was held over the dead body and the jury returned the following verdict.

“At an inquisition holden in Helena, in the county of Lewis and Clarke, in the Territory of Montana, on the 17th day of April A.D. 1870, before O.B.

Totten Esq., one of the Justices of the peace in and for said county acting as Coroner thereof, pursuant to law, upon the body of one unknown, there lying dead, by the jurors whose names are subscribed hereto. The said jurors on their oaths do say, that the deceased came to his death by means of a pistol shot fired by himself, on or about the 17th day of April, A.D. 1870, at a point on the road leading from Helena aforesaid, leading to Holmes' gulch in Jefferson county, about one mile from Helena, and it is the opinion of this jury, that no blame is attachable to any other person. In witness whereof the said jurors have hereunto set their hands, this the day and year above written, Wm. F. Wentworth, W. B. Rohrer, Wm. K. Post, Wm. H. Allen, James H. Shook, C.M. Travis.

“A singular incident in connection with this strange and mysterious affair transpired this morning. Mrs. Chas. T. Hera was taken to the hospital, and identified the deceased as her brother Gus. Wentworth of Canyon Creek, but would not consent to his burial until she had first sent a messenger to that camp and ascertain to a certainty. An hour afterwards she met, while returning home her real brother who had just come in from Silver Creek, as live and well as ever. Her joy and astonishment at this unexpected meeting may be better imagined than described. This is one of the most striking cases of identity that ever came to our knowledge. The deceased it is supposed was thirty years of age, and supposed to be a German by birth.”
(*Helena Daily Herald*, 4/18/1870)

“The Holmes' Gulch Mystery. Name of the Unknown Man Ascertained. The name of the unknown man who was found dead near this city about two months ago, has finally come to light. It will be remembered that several thousand persons visited the dead man while lying at the hospital, but no one could identify him. The following letters to the *Gazette*, and to Justice Totten from Leesburg, Idaho Territory, will explain all:

Leesburg, Lemhi Co., Idaho, }
May 8th, 1870 }

Editor Rocky Mountain Gazette – Sir: – A recent number of your paper contained an account of the finding of a man dead near Helena, whose name was unknown, and who was supposed to have come from Leesburg. The description answers to that of a young man names Gus. McMinn, a native of Nova Scotia, aged about twenty-five, who left this place about the last of March, for Helena, to procure medical assistance, with the intention of returning. He has lived in the camp about three years, and was a quiet and industrious man, without a single enemy. He had, when leaving, between

two and three hundred dollars in Nappies creek gold dust, about one hundred and seventy-five of which was in specimens. He had a sister living in Virginia City, two years ago. His mysterious disappearance is deeply felt by his many friends here, and strong suspicions are entertained of foul play. Any one desiring further information will receive the same by addressing – J. G. Morrison, Leesburg.

Leesburg, Idaho Ter., May 11, 1870.

O.B. Totten Esq. Dear Sir: – Your favor of April 23d is at hand, and your request cheerfully complied with, and in reply I would state that we have known the late deceased for three years. In the Spring of '67 he arrived in this place from Virginia City, M.T., where he has or had a sister living, and married to a brewer by the name of Gilbert. Gus McMinn, as near as we can remember, left this place about five weeks ago with the intention of going to Helena, to receive medical attendance, and if his health permitted, to return and commence work, when the weather was suitable for mining purposes. At the time of his leaving he had between two and three hundred dollars in gold dust, in three separate purses, and I must say he left his business in a sorry condition in this place, having considerable money out at interest, and money due him for work. He was a man of quiet, steady habits, and worked all the time. We return the bill as requested. Very truly yours, &c. McNutte & Phillips. Per Glendenning.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 5/20/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

McMurray, S.

Mr. McMurray died on 1/26/1867.

“Sudden Death. – We have to record the very sudden death, from heart disease, of our fellow citizen and caterer, at the Crystal Palace Hotel, Mr. S. McMurray. On Saturday evening last, at about 5 o'clock, there was an alarm of fire given, and it being discovered by Mr. McMurray – who was at the time at his post of duty in the Crystal Palace, as well and hearty as one could wish to be – as proceeding from a building in the rear and nearby his place, he ran out with a bucket of water, sounded the alarm, and, after trifling attention, the fire was extinguished. Mr. McMurray came back into his house, and, coming to rather a sudden halt in the middle of the room, turned pale, and asked in a faint voice for a drink of water, fell instantly dead upon the floor before water or assistance reached him. Mr. Magee, the gentlemanly partner of the deceased, will continue in charge of the Crystal

Palace, as a restaurant and a place of public entertainment.” (*Helena Herald Supplement*, 1/31/1867)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Millegan, Elenor M.

Little Elenor was born in Helena in 1867. On 3/21/1868 at age 6 months she died. She was the daughter of W. L. and M. A. Millegan.

Moved to
Benton
Avenue
Cemetery.



Miller, Joseph

Mr. Miller was born about 1840. On 6/23/1870 he died.

“Fatal Accident at Unionville. One Man Killed and Another Seriously Injured. A terrible accident occurred in one of the mines at Unionville, about 4 o’clock this morning, which resulted in the instant death of one man and the serious injury of another. The circumstances relating to this sad affair, as reported to us, may be summed up as follows: About 4 o’clock this morning, while two of the men employed by Mr. Charles Hendrie, in his mine near Unionville, were putting in the last blast on their shift, from some cause or other it went off prematurely, and instantly killed a man by the name of Jos. Miller, and seriously wounded another man, whose name we were unable to ascertain. The latter’s eyes were nearly bursted from their sockets, and it is feared that the unfortunate man will lose his sight altogether. Dr. Maupin was summoned, and administered to the sufferer in every possible way. Joseph Miller, who was killed, was about thirty years of age, and leaves no family or friends in this Territory. He had been employed by Mr. Hendrie ever since the mine was first developed, and was formerly in the employ of Jas. W. Whitlatch, Esq. He was an experienced miner, and a good, faithful

man. The remains of the deceased were conveyed to the cemetery this evening and interred. The cause, or supposed cause of this sad accident, is said to have been attributable to bad or defective tamping, and was not in any way the result of carelessness. Five other men who were at work on the same shift had started away only a moment before the fatal explosion, and consequently, escaped without injury. This, we believe, is the first accident at Unionville that has resulted in death for nearly two years.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 6/23/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Montgomery, Nellie

Nellie is listed in the 1870 Census, Benton, Chouteau, Montana Territory. She was born about 1844 in Maryland. On 1/19/1871 at age 27 she was murdered.

“Murder Most Foul. ‘One more Unfortunate gone to her Death.’ Reports having reached us early this morning of a murder having been committed in a house on Clore street above Bridge, our reporter visited the premises, saw the corpse of the murdered woman, and gleaned the following facts in relation to this tragic affair. The name of the victim is Nellie Montgomery; she kept a house of prostitution, and had long been a consort of the most vile and degraded. A colored man by the name of George Dickson was in the house about 8 ½ o’clock last evening, he states that he saw a man there who was known to him as ‘Johnny,’ (a Frenchman,) and that Johnny and Nellie had been, and were then drinking freely of whisky, and quarreling about some money which the girl alleged the Frenchman had stolen from her; she threatened to have him arrested to-day for the theft, but more whisky having been brought and drank, the matter seemed to have been forgotten by them both. At this stage of affairs, the colored man left the house; at 8 o’clock a.m. he returned and found the girl drenched in blood, stretched upon the bed, and her paramour ‘Johnny,’ gone. He immediately gave the alarm, a crowd assembled, and (as life was still in the body,) a physician was sent for. Dr. Reese went to the scene and immediately saw upon examining the wounds, that death was certain, the brain oozing from two deep incisions in the right temple, made with a knife or dagger. The life which was but flickering, went out soon – and the soul of this poor abandoned creature returned to the God who gave it. The supposed assassin is described as being a tall, slim man, about 25 years of age, with a light colored moustache, and a very slight beard on his chin.

“Sheriff Steel and his deputies are leaving no stone unturned which will lead to the arrest of the felon. It is said that this man at one time drove a mule train for Hugh Kirkendall, but during last summer he was engaged in trading with Indians near Benton; he has a ranch and some stock, we believe, in the valley or on Ten Mile. The Coroner’s Jury met this morning, but adjourned until 3 p.m., to-day. At the time of going to press we have not their report.

“Since writing the above we have learned additional facts regarding this tragedy. The man, ‘Johnny,’ has been arrested; his name is John A. Hanson; he emphatically denies knowing anything of the murder; says he left the premises at 6 ½ o’clock last evening, and after visiting several drinking cellars and saloons in the city, left town and walked to the ranch, near the Fair ground, where he is employed. The only weapon found upon his person, was a large bladed pocket knife, newly sharpened, with blood marks upon the blade, near the handle. The accused will be examined to-morrow morning before a Justice of the Peace. The Coroner’s jury are proceeding with their investigation.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 1/20/1871)

“Acquitted. – The man ‘Johnny,’ who was arrested yesterday for supposed complicity in the murder of Nellie Montgomery, has, as a result of the preliminary examination, been discharged – having proved an *alibi* to the satisfaction of the court. The negro, George Dickson, who was the principal witness against him, has been arrested, and will be submitted to an examination on Monday. His testimony was certainly very conflicting, and his statement of time was not corroborated by any other witness. We will here state that the substance on the knife-blade found on the person of Hanson, was determined by the Coroner’s Jury to be rust. Hanson proved by several responsible witnesses that he left the city at 7 ½ o’clock on Thursday evening, and did not return until yesterday; and the murder was committed, according to the testimony of Dr. Reese, at or very near 12 o’clock on Thursday night. Interesting developments are looked for at the preliminary examination of the negro, George Dickson, on Monday.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 1/21/1871)

“The Murder Case. The preliminary examination of the Negro, George Dickson, for the murder of Nellie Montgomery, was announced to be held at the Court House to-day, at 11 o’clock a.m. At that time the court room was crowded with men, eager to know the result. At 11 ½ o’clock, the court being called to order, the Prosecuting Attorney announced that he was ready

to begin. He arose and said that the prisoner waived the examination, and would stand his trial at the next term of court. The court was then adjourned; whereupon some tragic individual in the crowd raised a faint cry, "Hang him!" 'hang him!' To the credit of the people there be it said, it was not echoed. Judge Symes at this juncture mounted a table and addressed the crowd. He stated that he desires to see the law take its course, that the prisoner, through his counsel, had exercised the right of waiving the examination that he was securely confined and closely guarded, and would surely be brought before the court which convened in March, tried, and if convicted, hanged. The Judge appealed to the reason and better nature of those who advocated summary vengeance; it had been of special comment, that no criminal convicted of a capital offence had ever been executed by due process of law in the Territory. He asked that passion and prejudice might not hold sway, and law and order be forgotten. The terse address was generally applauded, and made a visible impression; the crowd quietly dispersing. There are rumors afloat that the prisoner has made a full confession of the murder, but this may not be. Suffice to it to say, that if this prisoner is securely kept until the next session of the court, is fairly tried, and if found guilty, executed, it will stand a precedent to the fact that any man, be he white, black, or copper colored, suspected of or confessing a great crime, can be assured at the hands of the people of Montana, that inalienable privilege which all men have under our laws, the right of a fair trial." (*Helena Daily Herald*, 1/22/1871)

"Confession of Geo. Dixon. – The following is the confession of George Dixon of the murder of Nellie Montgomery, made to several of our prominent citizens Saturday night. About 12 o'clock on Thursday night, January 19th, 1871, I was coming over the wood pile, and when I was approaching the house she (Nellie Montgomery) was standing in the back door and said I had been after Nellie Howard. I told her no. She said I was a d—d liar, and fired at me with a derringer; after which she went back into the middle room and grabbed the ax which was standing at the foot of the bed, and struck at me, but missed. She attempted to strike me again, and I grabbed the ax with my right hand and drew my knife with my left, and threw the knife at her, and struck her about the temple, and the knife struck into her head. I drew the knife out and stuck her with it again a little below the first wound. When I struck her the first time she halloed out: "Oh, Lord! George" – she never spoke again. After I stuck the knife into her a second time, I drew it out and threw both knife and pistol away. I then stood by the bed awhile and cried, and then placed the pillow over her head to

keep her from making a noise. I then went after the doctor. She cut me in the arm about a week after she moved into Dr. Brooke's house, and stabbed me in two places in the left side about a week after she moved into the house on Clore street." (*Helena Daily Herald*, 1/24/1871)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Moore, George

George died on 1/25/1867.

"The Unfortunate Affair at Orofino Gulch – Death of Mr. Moore – Amputation of Young Hodge's Hand. – Probably there has not happened in the Territory any one serious altercation between citizens that has aroused so profound a feeling of regret and astonishment throughout a large community, as the lamentable occurrence of last week between the Messrs. Hodge and George Moore, at the head of Orofino Gulch, some three miles from this city. We have not learned, since our last issue, any further or different particulars concerning the origin or circumstances of the difficulty – nor do we propose to express partial sympathies or opinions which might prejudice the people or the executors of the law in this exciting case. Prof. Hodge and son were from an enlightened, law-loving community in the East, and were entrusted here with the supervision and entire management of extensive quartz works established by a company of New York capitalists, and had won encomiums from our citizens for their gentlemanly bearing and earnest devotion to the success of the important enterprise just mentioned.

Amputation.

"Soon after the fatal affray took place, it was found necessary to amputate the hand of young Hodge, above the wrist – the ball having passed through the wrist joint; and Drs. Glick & Maupin – among our most eminent physicians and surgeons – performed the operation with skill and dispatch, in the afternoon of the day the wound was received. The Professor was shot in the breast – the ball striking the breast bone and fracturing the same, from which the ball glanced, and it is supposed, upward. As soon as the patient is sufficiently recovered to admit of the operation, the search for and extraction of the ball will be made. Neither the Professor nor his son are regarded as in any danger of their lives from the wounds received, but

George Moore is Dead!

"He died from the effect of his wounds, after severe suffering, at a quarter past six o'clock on Friday evening last. He was watched over by Mr. Leidbetter and others, while Mr. Bentley spared no pains nor expense in

efforts to save his life. His wounds were six buckshot, describing two-thirds of a circle around his heart, through three of which his breath passed freely while he survived. He also received another wound in the lower portion of the abdomen, from a Spencer rifle – the ball glancing upward and passing out. George Moore was a young man of promise, of good habits, good heart, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was the only son and pride of a respectable family. His father – formerly from Ohio, but now a resident of Minnesota – has held many offices of honor and trust, and is esteemed for his sound judgment, unerring integrity and genial manners. Wm. L. Moore, a prominent lawyer and legislator of Minnesota – a resident of St. Cloud, and who spent nearly two years in this Territory – was a brother-in-law of the deceased. (?) On the breaking out of the Rebellion, George Moore went to Ohio, enlisted in a cavalry regiment, and served his country faithfully and with distinction till the close of the conflict. He spent the last winter in Minnesota with his parents and loving sisters – came to Montana last spring, since which time he has been in the employ of Dumphy & Bentley, (who have known him for many years,) in charge of some part of their lumbering business. Those who have known George Moore are loath to believe that he would commit a willful wrong, and what seems so unaccountable in connection with this most heart-rending affair, is that men of refinement, education, influence and high standing in the community, on one side, and a young man of unexceptionable character on the other, should have so far forgotten their mutual recourse to law and their plain duty to society as to have engaged in a contest with deadly weapons over the title to a few sticks of cord-wood. In the end the stern letter of the law must be meted out. The funeral services of Mr. Moore were conducted by Rev. Mr. Hough, at the U.S. Court room, on last Sabbath, and there was a large attendance of citizens. His remains were followed to the citizens' cemetery, just outside the city, by a long and respectable procession, and the last sad ceremonies at the grave were impressive and affecting. Though far from home and kindred, George Moore was among friends who evinced their esteem and attachment in a becoming and praiseworthy manner. We tender to the distant relatives and friends of the lamented deceased our most heartfelt sympathies and condolence.” (*Helena Herald Supplemental*, 1/31/1867)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Murphy

Mr. Murphy died on 12/13/1866.

“A man by the name of Murphy was accidentally killed by a comrade on Thursday last, while out hunting near the Missouri river. At the time of this sad occurrence, the two men, in single file, were pushing their way through an underbrush, Murphy in advance. The rifle in the hands of Murphy’s friend becoming by some means full-cocked, was suddenly discharged by a twig striking the trigger, and the contents of the piece took effect in Murphy’s heart, killing him instantly. Murphy, we believe, was a resident of this city, and had been engaged for some time past in mining near town.”
(*Helena Herald*, 12/20/1866)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery

O’Donnell, D. A.

“Helena Items – *Frozen*. – The man found frozen between Helena and Oregon Gulch, was D. A. O’Donnell, a partner of Mr. [John] Toombs. He was from Pennsylvania, and a worthy man. Being anxious to reach Helena to meet a payment, he braved the storm, and met his death as stated. He seems to have wandered about, lost for some time. He was brought to this place [Helena] on the 23d ult., and buried.” (*The Montana Post*, 2/3/1866)

Pacey, Edward H.

On 7/22/1868, Edward H. Pacey died.

“Suicide – It becomes our sad duty to chronicle the most painful case of suicide which has ever happened in our Territory. Mr. E. H. Pacey, whom most of our readers will remember as driving the Hot Springs Express, and who, last winter, drove a beautiful span of white horses in the finest sleigh in the country, was found dead yesterday, lying in a ravine near Grizzly Gulch. The remains were found by a man who was picking strawberries. He immediately came to town and gave the news, when a wagon was procured and the body was taken to the Court House, and subsequently removed to the residence of the deceased. From the nature of the wound it is thought that he fired the charge into his mouth and died instantly. When found he held the revolver in his grasp, with one barrel empty. We understand that for some time past he has been depressed in spirits, consequent upon being involved in debt. He is represented by those who were acquainted with him, as having been, up to the time of his death, an honest, good-hearted citizen, a good husband and tender father. He leaves a wife and four little children. In his note book was found the following: Dear Wife: - I am no more. My brain

is gone. I must leave you to the charity of the cold world. Farewell to you and my dear little children. A coroner's jury was summoned, who returned a verdict in accordance with the above facts. We cannot, in justice to the member of a good citizen, husband and parent, dwell to a greater length on the causes of his tragic death, and can only deplore the circumstances which led him to commit the fatal act, and offer our heartfelt sympathy for the bereaved widow and fatherless children." (*Helena Herald*, 7/23/1868)

He was moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Parkinson, Argyle

Little Argyle was born in Helena in 1864 and died at 13 months from brain fever in May 1865.

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery and later moved to Forestvale Cemetery.

Peel, Langford

Langford Peel traveled to Salt Lake City from Leavenworth, Kansas in 1858, and from there went to Nevada. In 1867, he left Nevada and with John Bull as a partner started for Helena to open a mining claim. They quarreled on the way but became reconciled when reaching their destination. Bull had examined the mines at Indian Creek and reported favorable of the find to Peel, who went to the mines and when he discovered they were not so represented, accused Bull of falsehood and misrepresentation. Another argument started and Peel was killed by Johnny Bull in a saloon in Helena on July 23, 1867. Langford was 36 years old. He was buried in the City Cemetery with an impressive wooden marker inscribed as follows: "Sacred to The Memory of Langford Peel, Born in Liverpool, Died July 23rd 1867 Aged 36 Years. In Life Beloved by His Friends and Respected By His Enemies. Vengeance Is Mine Sayeth The Lord. I Know That My Redeemer Liveth. Erected By A Friend." When the body was removed from the City Cemetery and moved to the Benton Avenue Cemetery, W. F. Sanders took the marker and placed it in the attic of his house, where it remained until 1928 when the marker was given to the Montana Historical Society where it remains to this day. (*Philipsburg Mail*, 1/13/1928)

Note: Bull was indicted, tried, and his conviction failed by a disagreement of the jury, which stood nine for acquittal and three for guilty. More information about Johnny Bull appears in the following

newspapers: Helena *Daily Independent*, 5/13/1874, *Helena Independent*, 1/19/1882 and 7/23/1882.

“Grave Marker Given to State. Head Board from Resting Place of Longhead (sic) Peel, Recalls Early Day Tragedy. Records death in Helena in 1867 of miner who was slain by partner after quarrel about worth of claims; was preserved by Col. Sanders in attic of home.” . . . “The body was buried in the old graveyard just to the west of the high school building, which ground is now used as a playground for the school children. All bodies were removed to the graveyard on Benton avenue.” (*Philipsburg Mail*, 1/13/1928)

See photo of marker at MHS photo archives 955-309-310.

Grave marker stated: “SACRED to the memory of LANGFORD PEEL, BORN IN LIVERPOOL, DIED JULY 23RD 1867 aged 36 YEARS. IN LIFE BELOVED BY HIS FRIENDS AND RESPECTED BY HIS ENEMIES. VENGENENCE IS MINE SAYETH THE LORD. I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH. ERECTED BY A FRIEND.”

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.



Petchner, Frank

Little Frank was born 6/1/1865 and died on 9/14/1866 at 1 year 3 months 13 days.

“At Helena, September 14th, Frank Petchner, son of F. and Annie Petchner, aged 1 year, 3 months and 13 day.” (*The Montana Post*, 9/22/1866)

Phleger, Dan

Dan died on 12/19/1875.

“An Outcast. The Sad Ending of a Chequered Career. A Pauper Nobleman in a Nameless Grave. On Sunday last there was buried in this city a young

German who was known here by the name of Dan Phleger. He died at St. John's Hospital, from whence the funeral took place. He died a pauper, and on that day was taken to the lone hill-side in the Protestant Cemetery, far away from the dust of his ancestors. A fate of his own age in Berlin, young Von Scheiler became financially involved, and in an evil hour yielded to the tempter and committed a forgery upon his father for a sum exceeding eighteen thousand dollars. With some of the money in his possession, Von Scheiler fled to America, where, in riot and dissipation, he soon found himself penniless. Our civil war was then in progress, and the fugitive joined the ranks of the Union army as a common soldier. In spite of his efforts to conceal his identity, he was recognized by his superiors to be a man of culture and he was promoted from the ranks to a Lieutenancy, and was soon after appointed quartermaster. Here was a brilliant career open to this young criminal, where he might in a measure wipe out the stain upon his name and character, but fate would not will it so, and young Von Scheiler, haunted by his conscience, plunged into dissipation, and sought the Western wilds to hide his shame. Here in Helena he acted in the capacity of waiter in different restaurants, and tended bar in one or more saloons. Occasionally he would drop into a beer saloon furnished with a piano and charm his listeners with music, accompanied by his rich and cultivated voice. A few weeks ago he was taken sick, and being without money or friends, was sent to the hospital as a county patient, where he died as related above. And so ended the life of a young man both to wealth, luxury and retirement." (*Helena Independent*, 12/21/1875)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Pococke, Leander Rodney

Rodney Pococke was the first white person to die in Helena, Montana on March 7, 1865.

"DIED. At Helena, on the 8th of March, 1865, [he actually died on the 7th] of pneumonia, Dr. Lord Rodney Pococke, formerly of St. Louis, Mo., aged 25 years." (*Montana Post*, March 18, 1865)

Leander Rodney Pococke was born in St. Louis, Missouri about 1840, the son of William Henry Pococke, a prominent St. Louis businessman, and his second wife, Caroline Virginia (McGhee) Pococke.

He attended the St. Louis Medical College and became a physician, but contracted tuberculosis, which prevented him from practicing his profession. In 1862, while residing in Montgomery County, Missouri with his elder brother Horace (also a physician and a Confederate sympathizer), Rodney was briefly detained by authorities on suspicion of his participation or collusion in the ambush killings of two Union soldiers by a Confederate guerrilla unit. He was released for lack of evidence. In 1863, Rodney was initiated into the Masonic Lodge of Missouri, and was elevated to 1st Degree Mason the following year.

In early 1864, Rodney traveled by steamboat up the Missouri River, initially settling in the gold mining town of Virginia City in the Montana Territory. Shortly afterward, he moved to Last Chance Gulch (now Helena, Montana) following a major gold strike there. A land speculator, he filed a claim on the Tutt and Donnell Lode near Idaho Gulch in September 1864. He also became co-owner of Scott's Addition south of Broadway in Helena.

On March 7, 1865, Rodney Pocke died of pneumonia and tuberculosis, the first recorded death in Helena. Per his final request, his friends organized a Masonic service at Rodney's funeral, inviting all men in the area who claimed membership in any Masonic lodge to attend and participate. The large number of participants led to the chartering of the first Masonic Lodge in Helena on August 17, 1865. Rodney Street in Helena was named in honor of Rodney Pocke. (*QLCG*, Vol I, Ellen Baumler, page 32)



Rodney's remains were removed and returned by steamboat to St. Louis in June 1866, and he was re-buried in the Pococke family plot at Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis City, Missouri. His tombstone records his name as Rodney L. Pococke.



Pritchett, George W.

George was born about 1834 and died at age 36 on 6/15/1870.

“Death of Mr. Pritchett. – After a brief but painful illness, Mr. George W. Pritchett died at the International hotel about six o’clock last evening. The deceased was a native of Baltimore, Maryland, but for several years prior to his removal to Montana, resided at Leavenworth, Kansas. The past two years he was engaged in mercantile business in this Territory, and made many warm friends by his genial disposition and his honorable conduct with all who had dealings with him. The funeral took place at three o’clock p.m. and was largely attended by friends and acquaintances.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 6/16/1870)

“Died. On the 15th. Inst., at the International Hotel, in this city, G. W. Pritchett, aged 36 years, a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and for many years a resident of Leavenworth, Kansas. (Baltimore and Leavenworth papers please copy.)” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 6/16/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery on 2/7/1871.

Quailes, James

James was born about 1826 and died at age 43 on 9/26/1869.

“The remains of James Quailes, killed by Indians yesterday near Silver City, were brought to Helena this morning, attended by nearly 100 of the citizens and miners of that place. The funeral services were conducted by and under the rites of the Masonic fraternity of Helena today.” (*QLCG*, Vol I, (Campbell), page 30)

Per US Census Mortality Schedules, age 43, born Ireland, miner, lived Subdivision 3, Lewis and Clark County.

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Sanders, George

George was hanged on 11/20/1865.

“His Epitaph. – On Tuesday of last week, one George Sanders was found hanging from that same old tree, in Dry Gulch, with the following inscription placarded on his back: This man was hung for robbing A. Slane of \$1,180, and for other small stealings.” (*Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana, 12/2/1865)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Scott, Charles R.

Charles was killed by Indians on 2/9/1868 at age 29.

Charles was born in Muncy, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania in September 1837, the son on Samuel and Mary Scott. He came from a large family. His brother Amos followed him to Montana sometime after 1860. By 1870, Amos was living in Jefferson City, Jefferson County, Montana Territory.

“Indian Massacre. – Wells, Fargo Co’s Benton coach, of Tuesday last, brought from Dearborn Station the body of a man named Charles R. Scott, who was murdered by Indians Sunday night last. The deceased and his brother Amos, who have been mining during the past season in the vicinity of Big Indian and T___ gulches, started out on a hunting expedition. They had pitched their camp some five miles above Dearborn crossing. They had with them five head of horses, together with guns, ammunition, provisions,

etc. On Sunday afternoon last, about sundown, two Indians, one an old and the other a young buck, came into the camp, exhibiting friendly bearing, were treated kindly and took supper with the Scotts. After the meal, one of them complained of being ill, and laid down before the fire, and his example was soon followed by the two white men and the other Indian. About two o'clock, the eldest of the Indians sprang up with a yell, seized one of the guns and shot the deceased, the ball entering above the heart. Immediately on the Indian giving the yell and firing, both Scotts sprang from their blankets, thus scaring the Indians who ran off and hid in some willows on the edge of the river. After staying in camp about an hour and seeing no sign of the red devils, Amos started for assistance to the station. On his return he found that the Indians had come back and stripped the camp of nearly everything movable as well as driving away the stock. In their haste to make off with their plunder, they did not scalp their victim. Pursuit was out of the question as no horses were to be had sufficiently fresh to overtake them. It is supposed the Indians were either Bloods or Blackfeet, although they told the Scotts when asked in camp what tribe they belonged, and that they were Pend d' Oreilles. The carelessness displayed by the two white men in this instance was almost unheard of, and will no doubt prove warning to small parties who may be out in the future." (*The Montana post*. (Virginia City, Montana Territory), 2/15/1868)

Moved to Benton Avenue
Cemetery.



Scott, Presley

Mr. Scott died on 5/1/1867.

“Sudden Death of Presley Scott. – Mr. Presley Scott, well and favorably known in Helena, as the proprietor of the Bull’s Head meat market, on Main

street, although he retired in apparent good health the night previous, was found dead in his bed on Wednesday morning last, lying upon his back with his eyes perfectly closed, his hands clasped over his breast, and appearing in every way like one asleep, or if dead, to have fled the spirit without a struggle. An examination by members of the medical profession resulted in the conclusion that he came to his death from an attack of apoplexy. The deceased was formerly from Lane co., Oregon, where he had extensive interests and was much respected. It was his intention to bring out a large drove of cattle from Oregon this summer. He was a man of wealth, good business talents, and his loss cannot but be felt and deeply regretted by this community. The funeral of the deceased took place on Sunday, when his remains were followed to the grave by a large number of our citizens.”
(*Helena Herald*, 5/2/1867)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Seachriest, Jake, aka Jacob Silvie, aka Jake Silvers

“On the morning of Sunday the 30th ult., the rumor flew through town with incredible rapidity, that a man was hanging by the neck on the same tree, in Dry Gulch, on which John Keene suffered for the murder of Slater. We repaired to the spot, and there, swinging by the neck, was suspended a man in his shirt sleeves. The lariat with this he was hanged ran over a stout limb and was made fast round the body of the tree. From appearances we should suppose the culprit was executed in navel fashion, i.e., run up all standing, the artificial arrangement of a drop being dispensed with. We were informed that the man’s name was Jake Seachriest, alias Jake Silvers. A piece of paper pinned to his leg, bore the legend, ‘Road Agent.’ Who hanged him, we know not; but that he deserved his doom we feel sure. Many a thrilling tale of just and retributive vengeance is recorded in the archives of the Vigilantes.”
(*Montana Post*, Virginia City, Montana, 8/5/1865)

“The first baptism in Helena, that of a road agent condemned to death by the Vigilantes, was performed at the bad man’s request that same summer.”
(*QLCG*, Vol I, (Campbell), 1865, page 13.)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Seary, Patricius [aka Patrick Seary, or Seery or Leary]

He was born in Ireland and killed in December 1866 at age 30. He was buried 12/12/1866. In the Record of Interments, Church of the Sacred

Hearts, Helena, Montana Territory, he is listed as buried in the Common Cemetery, Helena, the presiding priest was Francis Kuppens, SJ.

“By the middle of December, 1866, Father Kuppens was hurriedly summoned to Cave Gulch, the scene of a most lamentable disturbance, and where a number of miners were either dead or dying. A dispute over some mining grounds had divided the camp into two sanguinary factions, and, as the result, five young, sturdy men were hushed into premature graves, at the hands of fellow miners. Father Kuppens swam across the Missouri, and appearing on the scene while the two factions were still firing at each other. Four bodies were brought into Helena and buried from the little church on December 16, 1865 (sic-should be 1866).

“Theirs were the first graves opened in the now old cemetery site, east of Dry Gulch, which was secured on this mournful occasion. On December 12th had taken place the first funeral from the Catholic church on the hill. It was that of Patrick Seary (or Seery or Leary); but he is entered in the book of interments as buried in the common city cemetery; whereas, the four others, Dennis Murphy, John Hassard, Thomas Chever and Patrick Osborn, and, on the next day, Michael McLaughlin, a victim also of the Cave Gulch disturbance, are entered as buried in the Catholic Cemetery. These are the first burials on record in the books of the Helena church.

“The fear that if laid out on lower ground, the miners’ pick and shovel would soon dig it up and disturb the dead from their resting places, led to the location of the old cemetery on the hill-side of Dry Gulch. It was soon found out, however, that the spot, besides being of difficult access in the winter months, was also too rocky for the digging of graves, and another site was selected west of Last Chance at the foot of Mt. Helena, in the direction of the Hot Springs. But we find no record of any one having been buried in that locality.” (*Indian and White in the Northwest*, L. B. Palladino, S.J., printed 1894, pages 283-284)

“Cemetery In Mining Camp Necessity. A mining camp is seldom more than a few days old before it learns the necessity of a cemetery. The first burial from the new church was that of Patrick Seary Dec. 12, 1866, and although he was laid to rest in the common burial ground, the four who followed him a few days later as the result of a dispute over a mining claim were carried to the new Catholic cemetery high up on the side of Dry gulch. This location

was found unsuitable soon enough, and the Fathers were glad to accept the gift of a four-acre plot farther out in the valley.” (*Souvenir Centenary Edition, The Register, Diocese of Helena, Montana, A Century of Catholicity in Montana*, Vol. XVII. No. 35, August 27. 1941, Page 4, Section 2)

Senior, William

William was born about 1832. On 4/27/1870 at age 38 he died.

“An Old Citizen of Helena Shoots Himself with a Revolver. There is no abatement to the suicide mania. Three within the month of April – one on the 3d, another on the 17th, and the last this morning. When a man deliberately takes his own life it is generally supposed there is some cause for the rash act. He must either be laboring under a fit of temporary insanity, or suffering mentally from some sudden reverse of fortune, or from excessive drink. Suicides in California and on the Pacific coast for several years past have been of frequent occurrence, but until very recently, comparatively unknown in Montana. William Senior, an old and well known citizen of Helena, of the firm of Senior & McBirney, builders and stone masons, was found dead in the loft of his stable, near Edwards street, about 7 o’clock this morning. It seems that Mr. McBirney, as usual, went to the stable to feed his horses, and while there he felt something dropping on his hat from above. Thinking this rather strange he took his hat off and discovered that it was blood. He then ascended the stairs and there found his partner lying on the hay dead, with a bullet hole through his forehead and the blood still oozing from the wound. A Whitney’s revolver was found by his side with one of the chambers empty. Mr. McBirney felt of the body and it was still warm, and though all signs of life were extinct, it is believed the terrible deed must have been committed early in the morning. The report of a pistol was heard in that direction about 5 o’clock by some of the neighbors living close by, and it is very probable that the fatal shot was fired at that time. Mr. McB., soon after he had discovered the deceased, came down to Justice Totten’s office, who immediately summoned a jury and an inquest was held over the dead body at 9 o’clock. The following is the verdict of the Coroner’s jury:

Territory of Montana, }
County of Lewis and Clark. }

“An inquisition holden in Helena, Lewis & Clark county, Montana Territory, on the 27th day of April, A.D. 1870, before me, O. B. Totten, Justice of the Peace in and for said county, and acting Coroner thereof, upon the body of William Senior, there lying dead, by the jurors whose names are hereunto

subscribed, the said jurors upon hereunto subscribed, the said jurors upon their oaths do say that the deceased came to his death by means of a pistol shot, discharged from his own hand, on the 27th day of April, A.D. 1870, and that no blame is attached to any person therefore. In testimony whereof the said jurors have hereunto set their hands, the day and year aforesaid. James Spires, Green Ervin, L.B. Wells, John Kinna, J.W. Whitlatch, Alex. Kemp. William Senior, the deceased was seen about 7 o'clock last evening at Ed. Dewey's saloon, on Broadway, and from there, it seems, he went to his house, on Edwards street, ate a cold lunch, procured the revolver from the cupboard, and then proceeded to the stable as above stated. It is generally believed, however, that he did not shoot himself until this morning, as the body, when found, was still warm. The deceased was about forty years of age, an Englishman by birth, and financially, it is said, was in easy circumstances. He was unmarried and had no relatives, we believe in this Territory. His funeral will take place to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock." (*Helena Daily Herald*, 4/27/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Slater, Henry or Harry "Ed"

Henry was murdered on 6/6/1865.

“. . . the first murder, that of the notorious gambler, Harry Slater, was committed June 7 by the equally notorious John Keene, who was hanged. The Herald proclaimed: 'The old pine tree in Dry Gulch was dedicated to the uses of the hangman!'" (*QLCG*, Vol I, (Campbell), 1865, page 13.)

"All old residents will recollect the first murder that took place in the summer of 1865. The circumstances in brief were these: Harry Slater was killed while sitting in front of a saloon near where the clothing house of Gans & Klein now stands, by Johnny Keene, who had followed his victim from Salt Lake. The cause of their quarrel is not remembered by us, but that is not necessary for the purpose of this article. Keene was given a fair trial and hung by the citizens, and the assassin and his victim were buried side by side. Yesterday, while workmen were engaged in removing the bodies from the old burial ground, the two graves were opened. The remains of Slater had crumbled to dust, but those of Keene, strange to say, were almost as perfect as the day they were placed in the coffin. The features are so perfect that they are easily recognized, and the hair remains on the head and has not

even changed in color. – *Independent.*” (*Rocky Mountain Husbandman*, February 3, 1879)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery in 1879.

Stackhouse, Harvey J.

Harvey was born in New York about 1842. He was a lawyer. On 8/2/1870 at age 28 he died.

“Died. In this city, on the evening of August 2d, 1870, of mountain fever, H. J. Stackhouse, aged about 28 years.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 8/3/1870)

“Funeral of Mr. Stackhouse. – In another column will be found the notice of the death of H. J. Stackhouse, an old and highly esteemed citizen of Helena. Mr. Stackhouse was a member of Morning Star Lodge, and a large number of his Masonic brethren accompanied his remains to their last resting place. The impressive ceremonies of the Masonic ritual were conducted by the Most Worshipful Grand Master N. P. Langford.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 8/3/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.



Stevens, Martin

Martin was born about 1835. On 10/15/1870 at age 35 he died in an accident.

“Another Fatal Accident. About 5 o’clock Saturday afternoon a fatal accident occurred in this city, resulting in the death of Martin Stevens, under the following circumstances. Mr. Stevens was working in a shaft on West Main street, just below Hendrie’s Foundry, and while letting himself down,

the knot on the end of the rope slipped through the windlass, and the unfortunate man fell to the bottom, a distance of sixty feet. He was not discovered until the next morning. As no marks or bruises of any kind were found on the body, it is believed that death must have been produced by drowning, as there was about five feet of water in the shaft. The deceased was about 35 years of age, and recently came to this Territory from California, where he had lived for fourteen years. We understand that Stevens has relatives in Denver, Colorado.” (*Helena Daily Herald*, 10/17/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Stoner, Mary E.

“Sad Bereavement. It is our painful duty to record the death of Mrs. Mary E. Stoner, wife of J. W. Stoner, of this city, aged 32 years. After a painful illness of only two weeks she breathed her last at 8 o’clock on Saturday evening, the 11th inst. The deceased was a kind neighbor, a devoted wife and an affectionate mother. She was esteemed and beloved by all who knew her, and although other faces may appear to fill the vacancy in the social circle, yet to the sorrowing husband and the two little bereft daughters, the place of that mother and that wife can never be filled. The funeral services, conducted by Rev. S. G. Lathrop, were held at 10 ½ o’clock this morning, at the residence of the family on Rodney street, and the remains were followed to their resting place in the Masonic cemetery by a large number of our citizens.” (*Helena Weekly Herald*, 9/16/1869)

She may have been moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Truck, Lewis (or Louis) S. or Louis Tenck

“The Murdered Man, Lewis S. Truck. – The verdict of the coroner’s jury on the body of Lewis S. Truck, murdered at the Carson Brewery, on Water street, on the night of the 14th inst., declares that the deceased came to his death by a pistol shot in the hands of some party unknown.” (*Helena Herald*, 12/20/1866)

“The verdict of the coroner’s jury was that Louis Truck ‘. . . came to his death by a pistol shot fired by the hand of some one to the jury unknown.’ But, it appeared in the evidence that he was laboring under an attack of mania a potu. [alcohol intoxication state with violent and markedly

disinhibited behavior] and that he committed suicide.” (*The Montana Post* (Virginia City), 12/22/1866)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Unknown

On 12/1869 an unknown person was killed by Ah Chow. (QLCG Vol I, page 32)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Unknown, Caucasian

“Cemetery may lie in highway’s path. By Dick Roesgen, IR Staff Writer. A skull and parts of a skeleton, possibly remnants of a Chinese cemetery, were bulldozed from the earth Tuesday by a construction worker near the old School Administration Building on Allen Street. County Coroner Mickey Nelson collected the bones shortly after they were found, around 4:30 p.m. The downtown hillside lies just a few yards northwest of the building. The site was fenced off after the bones were collected. Nelson said the remains are at least 50 years old, and ‘more realistically,’ more than 100 years old. Chinese laborers lived in Helena ever since the late 1860’s, after gold was discovered, up until the early 1900’s. The incomplete corpse may have been encased in what appeared to be a rotted wood coffin, but Nelson couldn’t verify that. The bones will be turned over to a University of Montana anthropologist for examination. Until then, Nelson says, the site won’t be disturbed further. The administration building is being removed to the Helena golf course to make room for the extension of Cruse avenue. The Highway Department is in charge. The workman was bulldozing a dirt exit ramp for the building’s removal when the bones were unearthed. The bulldozer’s shovel apparently knocked the end off the wood casing. The skull rolled out, exposing the remainder of the corpse. The building is scheduled to be moved sometime next month and the skeletal find is not expected to interfere. Jack Ricker, chief of the department’s right-of-way bureau, says if more skeletons are found at the site, the department will probably hire a local mortician to move them elsewhere. Several sources have indicated that a Chinese cemetery, dating back to the gold rush days, lies in the area but its exact location has never been clearly defined or marked. Elmer Hoskins, a former Helena school board member, says several graves were moved near the turn of the century, to allow the Central School to be built there. The graves were relocated just north of St. Mary’s Church

on Missoula Avenue. John Fero, the principal of Central School, says the graves would most likely have been moved when the original Central School was built, in 1876. The school was built where the present Central School Building now sits, on Warren Street about 50 yards from where the bones were unearthed. And, several sources say, it's possible that whoever moved the graves might have missed some." (*Independent Record*, 8/31/1983)

The skeleton resides at the University of Montana, Missoula, Montana. In a letter signed by Charline G. Smith, Professor, Physical Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, she states the following in-part: "In brief, my conclusions are that the skeleton represents a male Caucasian about 5'6" and aged around 50 when he died."

Unknown, Lady of the Evening

"An Unknown Grave. Mr. Gus Senieur, who has the contract for removing the bodies from the old graveyard, near the school house, to the new, yesterday found a fine metallic coffin in good state of preservation. The box surrounding it had entirely decayed. It is of medium size. There was no mark to indicate the name of the deceased or the time of death. If any person claims it, or possesses any knowledge as to whom it belongs should call upon Mr. Senieur, who will not inter it for several days." (*Daily Independent*, 1/28/1879)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery in 1879. A plot was purchased in Benton Avenue on 2/10/1879 by Josephine Aery.

Unknown, Man

This man was found on 4/17/1870.

"On Sunday morning last, as Mr. Mike Griffin was coming over Butcher Knife trail, which leads from Holmes' gulch to Helena, he found a dead man lying across the trail, about a mile from this city. Upon arriving in town Mr. Griffin immediately informed Justice Totten of the circumstance, who summoned a coroner's jury and proceeded to the place as directed. The dead man was found as represented by Griffin, lying on his right side with a revolver under him and a bullet hole through his head. The body was dressed in a beaver coat and pants, dark, striped cassimere shirt, and looked to be about twenty-six years of age. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of suicide, but there are grave doubts of its correctness, and the body has not yet been identified. It is conjectured to be that of George Warner, station

keeper on the Benton road. *Herald* 19. The ‘unknown’ dead man was buried without identification.” (*The New North-west*. 4/22/1870) [George Warner was still living in 1880, so it was not George Warner]

May have been moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Unknown, Miner

“From the Herald of April 14: ‘A slide of many tons of earth came down from the south side of the Lawrence St. cut last night. The fall of earth was from that part of the Central school grounds used many years ago as a burial plot, and the cave-off exposes the coffin in which lie the remains of some early-day resident. The sideboard carried away exposes the body, which is that of a person dressed in the garb of a miner. The features are well preserved and the hair and whiskers grown long, are decidedly red. The remains, which have not been identified, will be taken to the new cemetery for burial.’” (*QLCG*, Vol II, (Campbell), page 74, 1893)

“There was a further fall of earth from the central school grounds yesterday, and a coffin was exposed to view. The side board of the box fell away, exposing the body of a man dressed in miner’s clothing. This part of the grounds was formerly used as a cemetery and the body exposed yesterday was one that was overlooked when the others were removed. It will be buried in the new cemetery by the city today.” (*Helena Independent*, 4/15/1893) (There is no record in Forestvale)

Unknown, Man

“WHEN GABRIEL CALLS. These Bones Will Get Together and Tell How it all Happened. A Ghastly Find on the Site of the New High School Building. The Relatives of a Pauper Were Satisfied but the Wrong Skeleton Was Shipped.

“The workmen employed by Arthur O’Brien, the plumber, have been engaged for some days laying a six-inch sewer pipe from the rear of the new high school building, on Warren street, to connect with the large sewer on Jackson street. About seventy-five feet from the building they ran across the end of a square pine box, which projected over the trench they were digging. It was only a few feet from the surface, and as the men were digging a sixteen-foot trench, the box did not interfere with their operations. So it was not disturbed. Had it not been for the peculiarly sickening odor which reached the men, the box would probably have been covered up again when

the work was finished, and nothing more thought about it. But it was this very odor which prompted one of the men to investigate, 'I am going to see what's in that box,' he exclaimed yesterday afternoon. With these words he gave his pick a swing over his head and struck the protruding corner of the concern. Time had rotted the boards, and the bottom, or so much of it as was exposed, fell out. With it came a shower of bones and a graveyard smell. The former rained down on the head of the man who had so dexterously used his pick, while the later almost overpowered him. It seemed that the tenant of the pine box was taking his revenge on the disturber of his rest. All work was at once suspended and the men crowded around and gazed curiously at the remnants of what had once been a man. Then the bones were collected and thrust back into the coffin, and the occupant left to take out his sleep until the trumpet of Gabriel summons him to get himself together and join the great procession that marches up to be judged according to their deeds done on this earth. The contractor for the work is building sewers, not hunting up skeletons, so, unless the city wants to have the box placed in a regular cemetery, it will be allowed to remain where it is.

“Just when the box – for it is a box and not a coffin – came to be buried on the present site of the new high school nobody seems to know. Some suggested that it was a graveyard there, though others failed to remember it. But it was a regular burial place, just the same, even in the days when everyone was supposed to run his own cemetery in whatever place the soil wasn't too hard. Among those buried there was Farmer Peel, a gambler who flourished in Last Chance gulch about twenty-five years ago. He ran a stiff bluff on another gambler one day. It didn't work and they buried Peel with great honors. A woman with whom he had been intimate put up a wooden headstone over his grave with these words: 'Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord, I will repay.' It is not known whether he did. Most of those buried where the high school building is now died violent deaths. When the cemetery was moved it was thought that all the bodies were moved too. It appears that at least one was forgotten. Whether the gentleman in the pine box was one of those who died with his boots or not the fact remains that the bones might be exhumed and buried elsewhere. Then an examination may disclose some clue to the mystery.

“The agitation of the cemetery question has brought to light some facts about the bones of the paupers who lie in the county's God's acre. It is said that in many cases there is no way of telling whose remains are in some of the graves. Commissioner Knight, when talking about it yesterday, said that

the only way one could identify a burial plot with the bones of the person in it was by a headstone. No record is kept in the county archives of the poor who are laid away at the expense of the taxpayers. This state of affairs has led to uncertainty in several instances where relatives have discovered that a kinsman had been buried as a pauper, and wished to transfer his remains. One case is told where the bones of a pauper were taken from a grave in the potter's field of the county and shipped to wealthy relatives in the east. There was no way of identifying what was left perhaps of a prodigal son for whom no fatted calf was killed. The bones were boxed up and sent to their destination to repose in a family mausoleum. It was decided at the time of the shipment that the relatives would accept the bones without question. They must have done so for nothing more was heard from them. This happened in the ancient times of the county and transition has it that the wrong skeleton was sent." (*The Independent-Record*, 12/3/1890)

Vivian, Susan Proctor (Louen)

Susan was born about 1808. On 9/1/1870 at age 63 she died from consumption.

“Died. At her home, in Helena, M.T., of consumption, after two years patient lingering, Mrs. Susan P. Vivion, wife of Elder Martin Vivion, aged 63 years. “Death is the crown of life.” Funeral services at the M.E. church, Friday, at two o’clock p.m. [Missouri and Kentucky papers please copy] (*Helena Daily Herald*, 9/1/1870)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery in December 1870.



Watson, Jesse S.

Little Jesse, the son of John R. and Sarah S. Watson, was born in 1870 and died on 7/7/1870 at four months of age.

Moved to Benton Avenue
Cemetery.



Watson, Leander M.

Leander, the son of S. L. and Louisa Watson, was born in 1869 and died 6/11/1870 at 1 year 1 month of age.

Moved to Benton Avenue
Cemetery.



Watson, Sarah Starr

Sarah was born about 1843. She was married to John Randolph Watson. On 7/8/1870 she died at age 27.

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.



Williams, Tom

Tom Williams died on 6/8/1867.

“Died In Jail. – One of the inmates of the county jail who has been confined there for some considerable time, on account of partial insanity – the result of that terrible weakness of man’s nature in which the brute masters the human and all moral restraints – died last Saturday, after dragging out a most horrible repulsive and detestable illness of several years standing. The name of the deceased was Tom Williams.” (*Helena Herald Supplement*, 6/12/1867)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.

Wort, Louise

“A Terrible Accident. – Yesterday afternoon, two notorious women of the town, Louise Wort and Kate Koonarth chartered a two horse rig from Montee’s stables, and proceeded on a break-neck ride out on the Hot Springs road. Coming with a dash to the bridge crossing the “Yaw Yaw” ditch, about a mile and a half from the city, - the horses at full speed, - the women

discovered too late that a portion of the bridge was broken, and the road passed through the ditch to the left. The horses were pulled suddenly in the direction of the track, and in the short turn both the occupants were pitched headlong out of the carriage upon a pile of rocks. Louise Wort had her skull smashed in and Kate Koonarth sustained severe internal injuries. Both were brought to town insensible. Louise, soon after reaching the city, expired. Kate has since regained her senses, and is likely to recover.” (*Helena Weekly Herald*, 9/12/1867)

Moved to Benton Avenue Cemetery.