



*Missoula County
Sheriffs
Buried in the*



*Missoula
Cemetery*



Photos and historical data provided by retired Sheriff's Deputy Robert Rafferty, archived articles from the Mansfield Library, Missoulian, and local newspapers, family members, public records, Missoula County records, and the Missoula Cemetery records.

This booklet was compiled and printed by the Missoula Cemetery as an informational booklet for individual use.

The Missoula Cemetery is a department of the City of Missoula in Missoula, Montana.

Questions and comments should be directed to:

***Missoula Cemetery
2000 Cemetery Road
Missoula Montana 59802***

Phone: (406) 552-6070

Fax: (406) 327-2173

Web: www.ci.missoula.mt.us/cemetery

Visit our website for a complete interment listing, historical information, fees, cemetery information, and regulations.

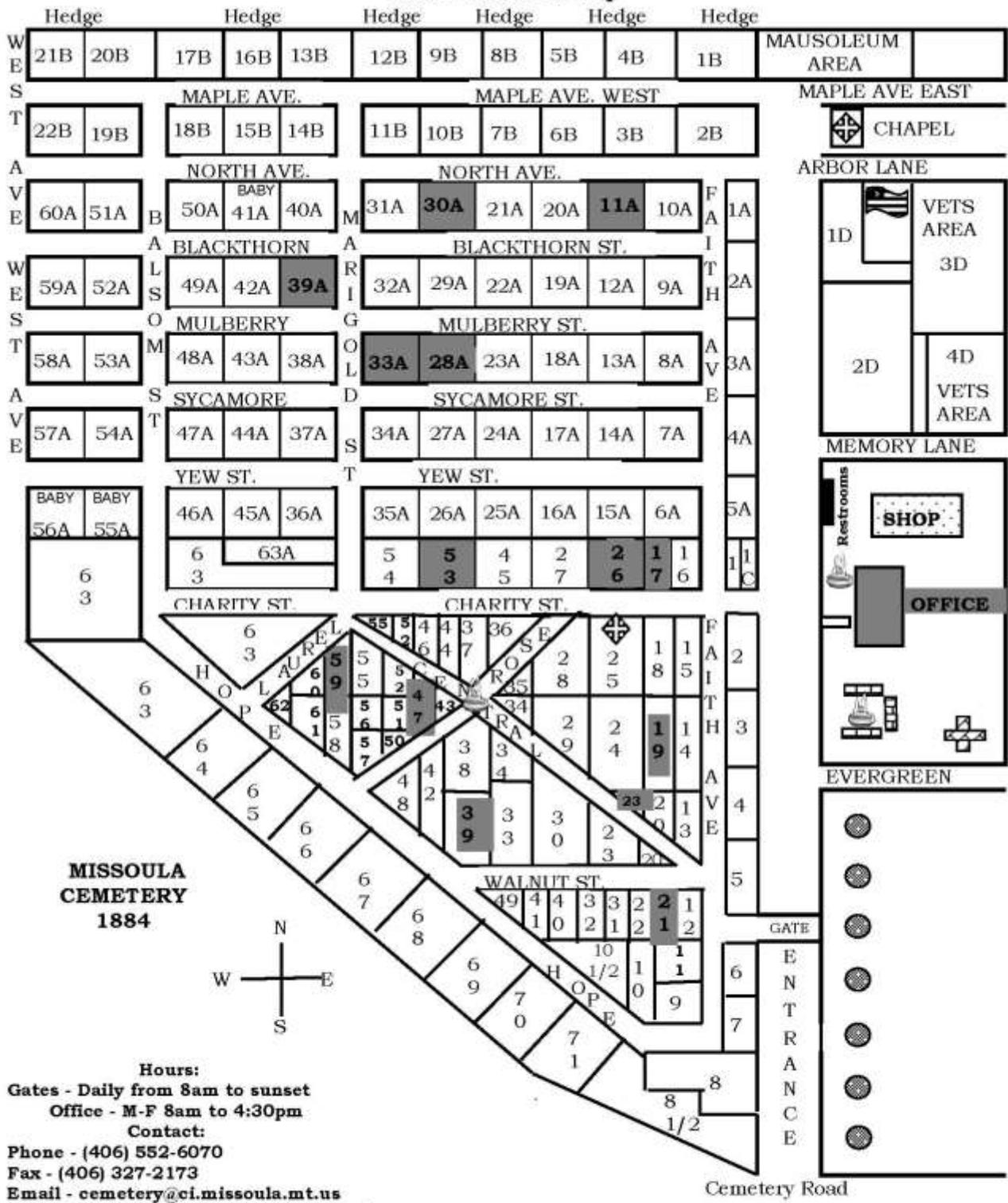
Table of Contents

Timeline: Sheriffs and Local History	6
Map: Sheriff Burial Sites	7
Charles Berry	8
Daniel Heyfron	10
William Houston	12
Harry Thompson	14
Davis Graham	15
Richard Whitaker	16
John 'Jim' Green	17
George Cole	18
John 'Jack' Rice	19
Charles Sharpe	20
James Thompson	21
John 'Jack' Shoblom	22
Robert MacLean	23
Listing of All Missoula County Sheriffs	24
Credits	25

Sheriffs and Local History

<p>1883: Town of Missoula incorporated. Northern Pacific railroad arrived. 1st legal execution of Chinaman, Ah Yung.</p> <p>1889: Statehood for Montana. Pop. 3,346</p> <p>1891: Chief Charlo left area in a mile long procession across Higgins Ave. Bridge to Flathead Reservation.</p>	<p>1882 - 1892</p>	<p>Charles Berry 1882 Daniel Heyfron 1886, 1888 William Houston 1890</p>
<p>1893: Area divided into 3 counties: Missoula Ravalli, Flathead.</p> <p>1894: Higgins Bank closes due to major local recession.</p> <p>1896: Gold discovered at Rock Creek.</p>	<p>1893 – 1903</p>	<p>Harry Thompson 1902</p>
<p>1905: Missoula, Lolo, & Hellgate forests established.</p> <p>1908: Missoula flooded after 33 days of nonstop rain, Higgins Ave. Bridge washed away.</p> <p>1910: The 'Big Burn' hit local forests, testing the newly formed Forest Service.</p>	<p>1904 - 1914</p>	<p>Davis Graham 1904, 1908 Richard Whitaker 1914</p>
<p>1916: Jeanette Rankin -1st woman elected to House of Representatives</p> <p>1917: Great West Sugar company went out of business. 1st public swimming pool opens.</p> <p>1918: Flu Pandemic.</p>	<p>1915 - 1925</p>	<p>Jim Green 1916, 1918 William Houston 1920 George Cole 1921 Jim Green 1922 Jack Rice 1924</p>
<p>1927: Runway land purchased.</p> <p>1932: Streetcars were replaced with buses.</p>	<p>1926 - 1936</p>	<p>Jack Rice 1926 Charles Sharpe 1928, 1930 James Thompson 1932, 1934, 1936</p>
<p>1937: Orange Street Bridge built.</p> <p>1941: US entered WW II. Japanese & Italians interned at Fort Missoula.</p> <p>1947: Juliet Gregory – 1st woman mayor elected</p>	<p>1937 - 1947</p>	<p>Jack Shoblom 1938, 1940 Robert MacLean 1942</p>
<p>1948: Parking meters installed.</p> <p>1954: President Eisenhower dedicated the Aerial Fire Depot.</p>	<p>1948 - 1958</p>	<p>Robert MacLean 1958</p>

Sheriff Location Map



Hours:
 Gates - Daily from 8am to sunset
 Office - M-F 8am to 4:30pm
 Contact:
 Phone - (406) 552-6070
 Fax - (406) 327-2173
 Email - cemetery@ci.missoula.mt.us
 Website - www.ci.missoula.mt.us/cemetery

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 11A MacLean | 17 Berry | 21 Shoblom | 59 Thompson, J |
| 39A Cole | 26 Heyfron | 23 Davis | |
| 28A Green | 53 Houston | 39 Thompson, H | |
| 33A Sharpe | 19 Whitaker | 47 Rice | |



CHARLES WILLIAM BERRY

- **14th Missoula County Sheriff.**
 - **1st legal execution conducted by Sheriff Berry.**
 - **Born.** February 25, 1827 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire to William and Olive (Lock) Berry.
 - **Nicknames.** 'Old Bill' or 'Uncle Billy'.
 - **Married.** Married twice. First wife information is unknown. Second wife was Annie Davis. They married in 1862. She died in 1867 when their youngest child was only four months old.
 - **Died.** February 18, 1897. It is believed he died of natural causes but the place of death was not certain.
- Charles' father, William, and grandfather, Isaiah Berry, were soldiers in the war of 1812. Grandfather Isaiah was a Whig in the political circle and served many years in the New Hampshire Legislature. Father William was a farmer all his life.
 - Charles had little education. He attended school only during the winter hours when he was not required to assist on the family farm.
 - **1849.** Charles, 22, traveled by ship through the Isthmus of Panama to San Francisco, California to join the gold rush. He succeeded in placer mining approx. \$2000 from above Coloma in less than a year's work.
 - **1851 – 1861.** Charles continued mining in surrounding areas, mainly in the Siskiyou Mountains. He also carried freight throughout the entire northwest. These pack trips were treacherous in many ways. One night while on watch he was warming by the fire when he was fired upon by an Indian. The Indian shot an arrow that passed through his beard just below his chin! He dropped down in the grass and crawled away from the fire. The Indian did not venture another attempt on his life that night.
 - **1862.** On a trip in Idaho, Charles was robbed of \$1119. He rounded up a posse and chased the robbers into Walla Walla, Washington where they were caught. The local sheriff then attempted to transfer the robbers to Florence, Idaho where they would be tried. Residents of Lewiston, Idaho feared more of the robbers' gang would attempt a rescue, so the citizens seized the robbers from the sheriff and immediately hung them. Fearing for his money, Charles high-tailed it out of the area.
 - **1864.** Charles' adventures took him to Alder Gulch, Montana. He spent time mining and trapping throughout the state. He began a venture whipsawing lumber and making underground drains to bring water into Bear Gulch during the winter. After bringing his wife and child here from Walla Walla, he was offered an interest in the 'Fighting Mining Claim' on the Salmon River. He and five other men built a log fort around the mine for safety and after one year \$16,000 was split between the six owners.
 - **1868.** Appointed Deputy Sheriff in Lewiston, Idaho, by his brother, J. G. Berry.
 - **1869.** Arrived in Cedar Creek, Missoula County. He again engaged in making lumber with a whipsaw. He began farming at the mouth of Cedar Creek. He employed twenty Indians and squaws whom he paid \$1 per day to work his crops. The harvest was sold to area miners.
 - **1882.** Elected as the 14th Missoula County Sheriff. During this time, he served as both Sheriff and Assessor for the county which covered an area 200 x 300 miles wide. Upon his election to Sheriff, he had to resign the other six positions he currently held: postmaster, mail carrier, notary public, road supervisor, and coroner at Superior, Montana.
 - **August 16, 1883 – 1st Legal Execution.** Missoula County's first legal execution was held by Sheriff Berry. A Chinaman by the name of Ah Yung was hung in the Missoula jail yard. The hanging was witnessed by 100 people. Mr. Yung was charged with attempting to blow up the tent of the China paymaster at Horse Plains and attempting to rob the inmates. Mr. Yung also shot

and killed the Chinaman who owned the tent and wounded his own brother who tried to follow him. To the end, Ah Yung maintained his innocence and did not understand the judicial system in this country.

- **1884.** After serving as Sheriff, Charles purchased 160 acres in the Flathead Valley and began raising hay and stock.
- **1887.** Back in Missoula, Charles was elected County Assessor and served three terms.
- Politically, Charles was a lifelong Democrat. Socially, he served as Master Mason in the Masonic fraternity.
- **1896.** Charles Berry was a very special character as noted in the local paper in 1896. A birthday celebration was given at every establishment throughout town with everyone participating in the éclat festivities. Regarding his actual age, the Montana Silverite reported: 'History does not state how old Old Bill is, though several eye witnesses live today who saw him alight from the ark when it landed on Mount Jumbo. It is conceded, however, that he was here in the year 1 B. C. and his many friends are willing to let it go at that.'
- Charles Berry would proudly exhibit a watch he had carried for 25 years as a souvenir of his early official experience. The watch had been purchased with stamps embezzled from the government. So he told it.



Grave 7 – Lot 3 – Block 17

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



DANIEL J. HEYFRON

- **16th Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** May 3, 1845 in Black Rock, Ireland. He came to the United States when he was five years old and was raised by his grandmother in Iowa.
- **Nickname.** 'Father Heyfron'.
- **Married.** Josephine Thomas in Cheyenne, Wyoming on November 8, 1870. Daniel was 25 and Josephine was 15 years old. Josephine was from Burlington, Vermont. They had ten children; five of those died in infancy.
- **Died.** August 29, 1934 of leukemia in Missoula, Montana.
- **Civil War.** Daniel was in the Iowa regiment during the Civil War. After the war, he traveled west to engage in the cattle business.
- **1867 – 1869.** Daniel followed the building of the Northern Pacific Railroad and established meat markets in all the towns along its route, finally ending up in Corinne, Utah.
- **1871.** After attempting a stint at mining in southern California, Daniel resumed his butcher business at Cheyenne, Wyoming. Here he became a prominent dealer in horses and cattle. When the Utah Northern road was built through Montana, he continued opening shops in each of those towns.
- **1882.** Daniel located his butcher business in Missoula at the same location where the Missoula Mercantile sat. He set up his family residence on Front Street. Their furniture was brought by team from Dillon to Missoula. A piano narrowly escaped going over a grade during the trip.
- **1886.** Elected as the 16th Missoula County Sheriff. He was so well known for his efficiency in capturing and bringing to justice the criminals who ravaged the area that he remained in office for four years. A majority of these 'criminals' were area Indians who were lawless and troublesome to the prospectors in the mountains. The sale of whiskey to the 'redskins' also produced regular disturbances. Sheriff Heyfron 'frowned' on all whiskey sales or trades to the Indians.
- **Jail house history.** The existing jail in 1866 was built using 10" square hewn timbers for the walls, ceiling, and floors. There was one window made of iron bars and a 'good substantial' door well secured with a good lock. The building was well pinned or spiked together and covered with dirt. The Sheriff was allowed \$4 per day for 'dieting prisoners'. The Sheriff was ordered to find a place for a cripple to stay at the County's expense – this was the first welfare case on record. The County paid \$8 per week for this man's board and room. The Sheriff was also allowed to employ prisoners as labor if suitably guarded. A new jail was approved in 1870 and was built with 10' high cells, heavy timbers on top and covered with shingles and to be kept separate from the courthouse. The cells were 9 x 9 or 7 x 9 and had barred openings in iron doors for heat and light. The hall had one iron grated window with a shutter, the walls were 30 inches thick of stones and the floor was 3" thick planks with stones between joists. In 1872, the Grand Jury ordered more ventilation 'to destroy the stench'. This led to the condemning of the water closet and providing individual chamber pots for inmates, of which they had to clean themselves. Finally, in 1888, a new jailhouse was built on the north corner of the courthouse square and was constructed of brick with a furnace for heat. The new jail was to be a combination jail and Sheriff's house with four steel cells on each of the two floors.
- **1887.** County Commissioners lowered the annual salary of the Sheriff from \$1500 to \$1200 citing 'the Sheriff and his deputies are not busy enough to render the higher wage.'
- **1888.** Sheriff Heyfron lost AND won the election for Sheriff after taking his case to the Montana Supreme Court. It seems the ballots consisted of various versions of his name such as 'Daniel Heyfron' or 'Dan Heyfron' instead of his legal filing name of 'Daniel J. Heyfron'. The official 'recorders' only counted the exact legal filing name and disregarded the other write-ins. It was

also noted that the official 'recorders' moved the election to a home where whiskey consumption contributed to the outcome of the election. Of course, the County Commissioners knew nothing about these events until after the fact.

- Daniel owned a large quarry on the south side of the Missoula River. Most of the prominent buildings in Missoula including the University of Montana campus were built using the stone from his quarry. His company did the excavating for the original Missoula commercial buildings including the First National Bank block, the Hammond building, and the Florence Hotel.
- Daniel was the driving force in building the big irrigation ditch on the south side of the Missoula River. The ditch stretched seven miles, from the Bandmann Ranch into Missoula.
- Daniel was deeply invested in teaming and freighting. He employed a large number of men.
- Politically, Daniel was a lifelong Democrat. Socially, he was a member of the Oddfellows and Masonic Lodges. In 1897, his son, Daniel Jr., scored the first touchdown for newly organized University of Montana Grizzly football team.
- **1900.** Daniel invested in mining in the Blackfoot Valley. He maintained this investment until a few years before his death.
- **1902.** Elected County Treasurer.
- **1930.** A 60th wedding anniversary celebration was held at the Heyfron home on East Front Street. This was the original home they built when first arriving in Missoula in 1882. Additions were added over the years but the home was their only residence in Missoula.
- **Horse Breeding.** Daniel was a great lover of horses and was known as one of the greatest breeders of thoroughbreds in Montana. One horse name 'Diablo' was never defeated.



Grave 1 – Lot 6 – Block 26

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

The following are from research at the library or submitted by Heyfron family members:



*Left: 60th Wedding Anniversary photo from Missoulian.
Below Right: Heyfron family house on Front Street in 1895*





WILLIAM H. HOUSTON

- **17th and 29th Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** May 17, 1853 in Logansport, Cass County, Indiana.
- **Married.** Married Mary Quigley on April 8, 1880 in Omaha, Nebraska. They had one child, Harvey A Houston.
- **Died.** April 14, 1937 of prostate disease in Missoula, Montana.
 - William received a very limited education. Experience served as his education. When he was a young lad four of his brothers were called to fight in the Civil War, leaving William to tend to business at home.
- In his early years, William was a guard on a stage coach from Cheyenne, Wyoming to Deadwood, South Dakota. He obtained this job on the reference of Wild Bill Hickok. Years later it was said that William pistol-whipped Wild Bill after an altercation in town and ran him out of Missoula.
- **1878.** His first job was with the railroad as a brakeman on the Panhandle. He traveled west with the railroad working his way up until he was promoted to Conductor of passenger trains.
- **1883.** When the Northern Pacific railroad was built, he followed it to Missoula. At that time, he ventured into the hotel business by purchasing the Grand Central Hotel.
- **1885.** Northern Pacific offered him the conductor position so he ended his hotel business and served in that position until 1889.
- **1889.** Elected as the 17th Missoula County Sheriff. He was known for capturing the many renegade Indians in the area. The unfortunate criminals who shot at the Sheriff received a direct hit with each bullet that left his gun.
- **1892.** Sheriff Houston was responsible for the arrest and hanging of John Burns. Burns murdered Maurice Higgins. On the night of August 14, 1892, one of Missoula's worst fires broke out in the main area of downtown off Front Street. At that time, all the wooden buildings were lined with boardwalks which added fuel to the fire. Building after building was destroyed. Practically the entire male population turned out to battle the blaze. One of the volunteers was Maurice Higgins, the son of Missoula's co-founder, C. P. Higgins. In the early morning after the fires had been squelched, the men were gathered on a corner surveying the remains. Meanwhile, John Burns was outside the local saloon down the street from this gathering. Burns and his partner had recently robbed a jewelry store in Spokane, Washington. The loot was not being distributed as Burns wished so he came downtown expecting to be able to easily shoot his partner in the crowd during the fire and take the loot for himself. Unfortunately, he didn't find the man he was searching for until after the fire and the crowds were gone. Needless to say, Burns shot the man, hitting him in the side. Burns immediately shot again, this time, however he hit young Maurice Higgins in the forehead. Burns fled but Sheriff Houston caught him a short time later. Maurice died early the next day. Burns was tried, found guilty, and hung on December 16, 1892. Case closed. Or was it? The Missoulian reported on December 31, 1892: "The Body of Burns is Not in the Grave". The story goes on to say that his body stands in the 'mystic chamber of the Hijis at their hall on the Eastside.' The reporter alone, supposedly, entered the strange place to find what he described as 'Burns' body embalmed and fastened to a steel rod to hold it upright. Scalpel marks were clearly evident,' stated the reporter. This report was never verified according to another article by Deane Jones which ran in the Missoulian on January 31, 1971. Mr. Jones ran a follow up article on May 21, 1971 when a man from Cummings, North Dakota claimed to have a pair of moccasins made from the skin of this same John Burns. Interesting...
- **Indian hangings.** A group of four Kootenai tribal Indians committed numerous infamous murders in the region during 1887 - 1889. They were all captured by Sheriff Houston and hung at the

same time on the same gallows. This was the only recorded multiple hanging of its kind. Those gallows now sit at the Fort Missoula Historic Museum.

*(Left to Right: Pierre Paul, Pascale, Lala See, Antley)
Each Indian declared their innocence right to the end.*



- When a man named Lamb robbed the Northern Pacific of \$5,000 and escaped to Mexico, Sheriff Houston trailed him. He then hired a Mexican to chase Lamb across the International Bridge right into Sheriff Houston's hands. The man was brought back to Missoula for trial.
- **1894 – 1920.** Served with the United States Land office and as City Commissioner. He was applauded for reducing taxpayer burden by trimming expenses in these offices. William claimed to have cut the \$20,000 per year cost of running the City Police Dept down to a trim \$9,000 per year and simultaneously collected \$9,400 in fines for the same year.



- **1920.** Elected as the 29th Missoula County Sheriff. This term lasted only eleven months. William was removed from office and charged with incompetency, connivance with bootleggers, and his deputies were accused of making moonshine.

- Upon retirement, William was instrumental in the continued development of Missoula. He partnered with C. P. Higgins and T. L. Greenough to build the Union Block.

- William was one of wealthiest men in Missoula. He invested heavily in real estate throughout the Missoula area.

- Politically, William was a progressive Republican. Socially, he was a member of the Masonic Lodge.
- A few days before his death, William Houston was quoted as telling an old friend, "I made the greatest cleanup the West ever had. I hanged five men, shot one on the street, and sent more than one hundred men over the road to the penitentiary for different crimes."



Grave 5 – Lot 12 – Block 53

William J Houston was buried in the Houston family plots alongside his wife, Mary and son, Harvey. Another family member by the name of A J Houston is buried there also but the exact relationship lineage has not been determined.

NO
PHOTO
AVAILABLE

HARRY W. THOMPSON

- **22nd Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** Around 1867 in New Brunswick, Canada.
- **Married.** Wife's name is unknown. They had one daughter.
- **Died.** June 1, 1924 of emphysema in Missoula, Montana.
- **1886.** Harry came to Missoula, Montana and began working at the Missoula Mercantile Company.
- **1902.** Elected as the 22nd Missoula County Sheriff.
- **1904.** Sheriff Thompson held the infamous hanging of Louis H. Mott. Mott was accused of killing his wife, Leah, on January 4, 1903. Mott was a longtime Missoula laundryman whose business was quite profitable in its early years. Mott became addicted to morphine and whiskey and would 'disappear' from town at times. His absences grew more extended. Finally, during one such extended absence, Mrs. Mott sold the laundry business and all their property. Upon his return, Mr. Mott became enraged. That evening, when the couple sat down to dinner in their apartment, the drugs and whiskey took control. He argued loudly with his wife. Many neighbors witnessed the scene. Mrs. Mott ran down the stairs to get away from him but he followed her. Before she reached the bottom of the staircase, he shot her four times in the back. A fifth bullet hit another female tenant from the apartment building. On her deathbed, Mrs. Mott begged for the care of her baby daughter and made an appeal for mercy on her husband as it was the drugs and alcohol that made him do these things. During the trial, Mott was described in the local papers as 'as weird a joker as was ever sentenced to death.' Deputy Sheriffs noted what a pitiful site it was to watch Mott's withdrawal from the drugs and alcohol. Mott had many hallucinations and begged wildly to be delivered from his state and his awful deed. Upon being sentenced to hang, another Missoula lawyer named Frank Woody stepped in and made an appeal to the Supreme Court, requesting clemency. Governor Joseph Dixon denied all appeals. By this time, Mott was 'dried out' from his addictions. Prior to his execution, he addressed the crowd to say a prayer. He noted that he 'held no malice' towards anyone associated with the imminent taking of his life as he would finally be able to rest in peace. Mott also issued a statement to the local newspaper proclaiming his innocence and sense of honor. Per his request, this article was not published until after his hanging. Sheriff Thompson erected a 15' high temporary stockade for this hanging to keep all gawkers out. One hundred fifty private invitations were sent for this execution. Immediately after the hanging, Sheriff Thompson ordered the stockade torn down and personally burned the rope.
- After serving as Sheriff, Harry returned to work at the Missoula Mercantile Company.
- Politically, Harry was a Republican. Socially, Harry was a prominent member of the Elks Lodge.



Grave 3 – Lot 1 – Block 39

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



DAVIS GRAHAM

- **23rd and 25th Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** April 20, 1869 in Charlotte County, New Brunswick.
- **Married.** Frances F York. They had two children.
- **Died.** June 9, 1952 of heart failure in Missoula, Montana.
- **1890.** Davis arrived in Missoula.
- **1904.** Elected as the 23rd Missoula County Sheriff.
- **1906.** Sheriff Graham arrested A. E. Primm for 'shamefully whipping' a horse from the Albee Stables. Primm was 'beastly intoxicated at the time.' Judge Phillips fined Primm \$24 with a warning that next time 'he would not get off so easily.'
- **1908.** Elected as the 25th Missoula County Sheriff.
- **1933 – 1939.** County Commissioner.
- Throughout his life, David Graham also worked as a contractor and was the Vice President of the State Welfare Commission.
- Socially, he was a life member of Elks, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, and Modern Woodmen of America.



Grave 5 – Lot 10 – Block 23

Davis Graham was buried in the Graham family plots. The relationship between each of the persons buried in those sites has yet to be confirmed. Only the temporary cement marker notes the sight as a permanent monument was never placed on his grave. Little information has been found on Davis.

Davis Graham was Sheriff during the time of Missoula's Great Flood of 1908. After 33 days of nonstop rain, the Clark Fork River swept away the Higgins Ave. Bridge and caused major devastation. It can only be imagined what kind of organization skills Sheriff Graham must have needed at this time to keep order and address the issues.

Left: Water sweeps over the Milltown Dam.

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

Photos from: 'Missoula the Way It Was'





RICHARD J. WHITAKER

- **27th Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** In Bath, England.
- **Married.** Alice. They had eleven children.
- **Died.** August 21, 1943 of heart disease in Missoula, Montana.
- **1914.** Elected as the 27th Missoula County Sheriff.
- At age 19, Richard left his father's bank in England where he worked as a bookkeeper. He boarded a ship and arrived in Canada. At that time, he worked as a cook in a logging camp before taking up freighting for the Hudson Bay Company.
- He was the first white man to pitch a tent and take up homesteading just south of where the town of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada now stands. During this time, there was an Indian uprising. Richard bore scars on his leg from where a poisoned Indian arrow lodged. After a very cold, harsh winter, Richard decided to pull out in the spring and head for Montana.
- Richard entered Montana on the highline above where the town of Great Falls, Montana now sits. At that time, the area was barren of civilization. Richard continued westward. He located the Blackfoot Trail and followed this along the river into the town of Missoula, Montana. At this time, the only structures were located at Hellgate Trading Post where Capt. C. P. Higgins had set up camp.
- Again, the adventurous streak struck and Richard packed up his things to head for the West Coast. Shortly after starting out, he met Isick Pauline who had a homestead and was in need of some help breaking land. Richard and Isick became fast friends. Richard stayed to assist Isick in preparing his land. In the end, Richard decided to stay in the area permanently.
- Richard setup a homestead on the South Hill area of Missoula. Richard was known to have built the first fence on that hill. Legend has it that three different mornings when he awoke, the poles of his new fence had been pulled right out of the ground. Each time he deliberately replaced the poles and repaired the fence. On the fourth morning of repairing fence, a group of rather 'rough' men came riding up on horseback. Richard showed no fear as he believed that only cowards stuck together that closely. The men ordered him to remove the fence as it 'interfered' with their business. Richard was fully aware of what their 'business' was – cattle rustling – and he refused. This was his land and he was going to do as he pleased. The men then threatened him and wanted to know what he was going to do about it. Looking them directly in the eyes, he quietly told them that if this happened, 'it would be a case for the coroner, not the sheriff'. The men left and did not return. Richard replaced the fence.
- Richard bought and operated the first threshing machine to be used in the area between Stevensville and Frenchtown.
- **Whitaker Drive.** Around the turn of the century, Richard built Whitaker Drive so he could get the thresher machine up the hill to his home.
- **1914.** Elected as the 27th Missoula County Sheriff. He served two years. At this time, the county line extended north of Pablo, Montana and the roads consisted of crooked trails.
- Sheriff Whitaker lost his bid for a second term over a complicated incident involving a woman shooting a man in his car. He had no control over this but the event cost him votes and he lost the election.

Grave 7 – Lot 6 – Block 19



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



JOHN 'JIM' THOMAS GREEN

- **28th and 31st Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** April 13, 1866 in Crab Orchard, Kentucky.
- **Married.** Olive Tillman on August 16, 1897 in Florence, Montana. (The Tillman family were Montana pioneers in the Bitterroot Valley.)
 - **Died.** February 2, 1943 of heart disease in Missoula, Montana.
 - At 18 years old, Jim decided to head west to Spokane, Washington to seek his fortune. His first job was to drive oxen teams in the lumber camps.
- **1887.** Jim arrived in Missoula, Montana where he worked in the logging business throughout the area. He operated a mill at Taft near the Idaho-Montana border. This was during a boom time and St. Paul Pass tunnel on the Milwaukee Railroad was being built.
- **1907.** Jim sold the mill and came back to Missoula.
- **1908.** Jim and Lou Ellinghouse bought the Charles H. Marsh livery barn and operated this business for seven years. The popularity of the automobile finally brought this business to a close in 1915.
- **1916.** Elected as the 28th Missoula County Sheriff. Sheriff Green was widely known, well liked, and emanated a genial nature of fairness. Legend referred to his being known from 'Tin-Cup to Taft.' This references the Tin-Cup basin in the south end of the Bitterroot Valley to the Taft ghost town in the west end of Mineral County.
- **1919.** A group of prisoners attempted to dig their way out of the jail and escape. The jail, which had been built in 1889, was sorely in need of repair. A group of male prisoners used their bare hands to pry away a piece of the broken cement floor and began tunneling. A back section of the open area had a 'blind wall' which sat a few feet away from the outer walls of the jail. This was the location of the tunnel. One day, officers investigated noises in the open jail room. They found the men within a few minutes of escaping. Prisoners were then locked in individual cells. The County Commissioners ordered the jail repairs immediately instead of waiting until spring.
- **1923.** Elected as the 31st Missoula County Sheriff.
- **Retirement.** After serving one term as Sheriff, Jim became employed by the Forest Service.
- Politically, Jim was a lifelong Democrat. Socially, he was a member of the Christian Church, the Elks Lodge, and Eagles Lodge.



Grave 6 – Lot 15 – Block 28A

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



GEORGE A. COLE

- **30th Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** August 11, 1877 in San-Lac County, Michigan to John M. and Susan (Seder) Cole. John Cole had been a Union soldier in the Civil War. George was one of 14 children in the Cole family.
- **Married.** Amanda Swenson in 1904 in Missoula, Montana. They had three children: Russell, Stanley, and Goldie.
- **Died.** March 1, 1953 of a ruptured aneurysm in a Veteran's hospital in Seattle, Washington.
- **Spanish American War.** George served in the Spanish American War. George was an excellent horseman. He rode with Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders up Kettle Hill during the war. According to a great-granddaughter, "After the war, President Roosevelt asked Grandpa to be in the Cabinet, but when Grandpa

asked Grandma, she said 'No'. Therefore, he didn't do that."

- **1903.** George arrived in Missoula, Montana to start work for the Northern Pacific Railroad.
- **1906.** Promoted to conductor for the railroad.
- **1920.** Appointed 30th Missoula County Sheriff when William Houston was fired for making moonshine in the jail. These were the hey-days of prohibition and bootleggers.
- **February 12, 1922.** Sheriff Cole presided over the highly controversial hanging of Joe Vuckovich. Vuckovich was accused of murdering Mrs. Jerry Shea in a love triangle. Mrs. Shea refused to leave her husband for Vuckovich. It seems a young woman saw Vuckovich 'run around a corner from the murder victim's home with one hand under his coat, as though he may have been concealing something.' Vuckovich proclaimed his innocence right to the end, although his attorneys never had him take the stand. They felt he had a better chance for freedom if his story was not told. The town came out in droves and even petitioned Governor Joseph M. Dixon to pardon Vuckovich. Governor Dixon stated he would not intervene in the proceedings. Added to the controversial sentencing was the fact that the hanging itself did not go smoothly and death was not immediate. Due to threats, Sheriff Cole took extreme caution by keeping the stockade well guarded inside, outside, and on all the cross streets. Crowds gathered outside the stockade the night before the execution and multiplied throughout the day. Ironically, the young woman whose testimony helped to hang Vuckovich would find her own husband, William Cates, in the same jail cell awaiting death by hanging thirteen years after the Vuckovich hanging.
- **1922.** Sheriff Cole's deputies seized a large shipment of moonshine brought into Missoula from Butte. The liquor was described as 'the worst kind'. Officers stated "It was the poorest grade of 'moon' and carried an awful wallop." The front men, J. C. Gilman and G. F. Kennedy, were in possession of a small amount of moonshine, six shooters 'ready for business,' and the 'recipe'. (Boil 5 gallons water, 18 pounds of spuds. Let Cool. Add 8 pounds sugar, 2 yeast cakes. Distill inside of 24 hours as bubbles will stop coming up.) The notorious moonshiner, Jack Keyes, was arrested in the Mercer Boarding House where he had 40 gallons of moonshine in his room.
- **1929.** Retired from railroad to operate a cattle ranch at Willow Creek, Montana near the town of Philipsburg. He taught his entire family his love of horsemanship.
- **1934.** George and Amanda sold the ranch and retired to be near family in Kirkland, Washington.
- Spanish-American War Veteran and Masonic Lodge member.



Grave 2 – Lot 10 – Block 39A

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



JOHN 'JACK' A. RICE

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



Grave 6 – Lot 2 – Block 47

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

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



CHARLES E. SHARPE

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



Grave 2 – Lot 12 – Block 33A

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



JAMES R. THOMPSON

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



Grave 3 – Lot 4 – Block 59

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



JOHN FREDERICK 'JACK' SHOBLOM

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

Grave 6 – Lot 10 – Block 21



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



Log Drives down the Blackfoot River – Courtesy of the Bonner School / Jack L. Demmons photo collection.





ROBERT DEWAR MACLEAN

- **36th Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** April 9, 1896 in Mandan, North Dakota to Robert and Anna (MacDonald) Maclean.
- **Nickname.** 'Bob'
- **Married.** May 8, 1928 to Beryl Frazier in Missoula, Montana. They had one child, Robert MacLean Jr.
- **Died.** September 15, 1961 of cancer in Missoula, Montana.

- **1901.** Maclean family moved to Missoula, Montana.
- **1912.** As a teenager, Robert worked as a call boy for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He would call crews to work. He eventually moved up to brakeman then to conductor.
- **WW I.** Robert served in the United States Army. The war ended within days of his being deployed overseas.
- **1929.** Robert worked for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the depression times.
- **1933 – 1942.** Robert served as Undersheriff of Missoula County for Sheriff James Thompson and Sheriff Jack Shoblom.
- For 12 years, the MacLeans lived in the family quarters at the County Jail. Mrs. MacLean cooked all the meals for the prisoners. During WW II, that also included some Italian and German aliens.
- **1942.** Elected as the 36th Missoula County Sheriff. Sheriff MacLean served as Sheriff for 16 years until he retired in 1959.
- **Last Legal Execution in Montana.** September 10, 1943, the last legal execution in state of Montana was overseen by Sheriff MacLean. Philip 'Slim' Coleman Jr., 24 years old, was accused of viciously killing Carl and Roslyn Pearson at Lothrop, Montana. He had robbed them of \$200. Coleman escaped in the Pearson family car which was later discovered abandoned in Drummond. A large manhunt was activated by Sheriff MacLean. From the time Coleman was apprehended, he had a need to brag about his dirty deeds. He showed no remorse, instead, he was extremely cheerful and commented how 'funny' the whole situation was. He became more serious the day before his scheduled hanging. At that time Coleman told of 23 other murders he had committed since he was 14 years old, growing up in the black ghettos of St. Louis, Illinois. In a dictated confession the night before he died, however, he only gave details of eight of those murders. The confession is said to still be in Missoula but inquiries have not found it. It is also believed that none of Coleman's confession was ever used to solve unsolved murder mysteries. Coleman had refused to be visited by the only local negro minister, Father Webster Williams. In the end, Coleman was baptized into the Catholic faith and accompanied to the gallows by Father Henry L. Sweeny. The gallows were specially built inside the jailhouse and the hanging was done in a very quiet, dignified manner with no news reporters and only a few invited guests. All former hangings had been conducted in the open jail yard with a stockade placed around the

gallows and the infamous 'Gallop' Gertie' gallows used. The specially made gallows for Coleman's hanging were eventually located in a dusty old section of the Missoula County fairgrounds.

They have since been re-located to the Fort Missoula Historical Museum.



1st foot of rope used in Coleman hanging along with invitation.

Grave 3 – Lot 6 – Block 11A



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

Missoula County Sheriff Listing as Elected

1853 – 1861 Washington Territory

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

1862 – James Stuart

1863 Idaho Territory / 1864 Montana Territory

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

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

November 8, 1889 Statehood – Montana became 41st state

****1890 – William H. Houston**
1892 – Col. Samuel G. Ramsay
1894 – H. W. McLaughlin
1898 – Dennis T. Curran
1900 – Clarence R. Prescott
****1902 – Harry W. Thompson**
****1904 – Davis Graham**
1906 – Hugh B. Campbell
****1908 – Davis Graham**
1910 – William L. Kelley
****1914 – Richard J. Whitaker**
****1916 – John ‘Jim’ T. Green**
****1920 – William H. Houston**
****1921 – George A. Cole**
****1922 – John ‘Jim’ T. Green**

****1924 – John ‘Jack’ Rice**
****1928 – Charles E. Sharpe**
****1932 – James Thompson**
****1938 – John ‘Jack’ F. Shoblom**
****1942 – Robert MacLean**
1958 – William Walker
1966 – John Murphy
1970 – John C. Moe
1978 – Raymond J. Froehlich
1984 – Daniel L. Magone
1990 – Douglas Chase
2001 – Michael McMeekin
2011 – Carl Ibsen
2015 – T. J. McDermott

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

Resources Used in Compiling this Information:

Retired Sheriff Deputy – Robert Rafferty

Missoula County Records Management – Marcia Porter

Archived Articles from the Missoulian, the Missoula Public Library, the Mansfield Library

Timelines Provided by the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula and the City of Missoula

Missoula Cemetery Records

Bonner School / Jack L. Demmons photo collection – Kim Briggeman, Missoulian

Historical Researcher - James Sims

'Missoula The Way It Was' written by Lenora Koelbel with Stan Cohen

'A Guide to Historic Missoula' written by Allan James Mathews

Missoula Public Library – Paulette Parpart

Local unnamed historian for the opportunity to photograph Coleman's hanging rope

Historical Researcher – Jack L. Demmons

***Note: The information in this publication has been represented as accurately as possible given the research information available. Please direct further information, inquiries, or*

corrections to:

Mary Ellen Stubb, Sexton

Missoula Cemetery

2000 Cemetery Road in Missoula MT 59802