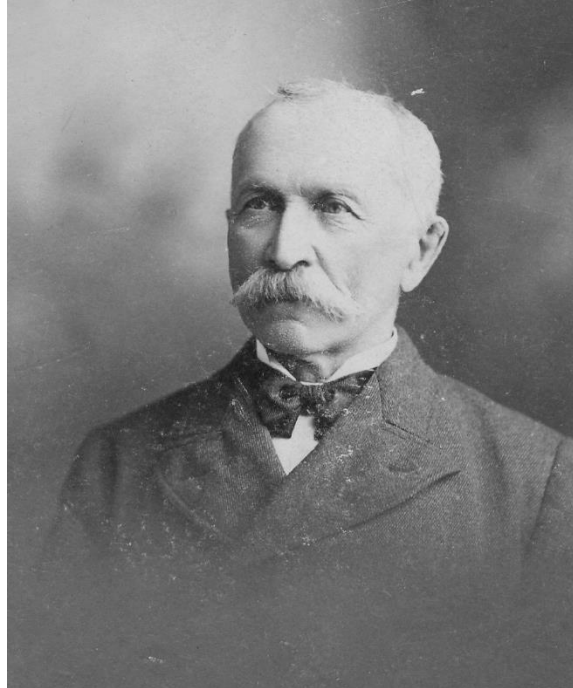


# Moses Solomon's Story

1830 ~ 1906



As Researched, Written and Compiled by

**Winniefred Eastlund Arhelger**

(Moses Salomon's great granddaughter)

*Editor's note:*

*The one major project Winnie wanted to finish in her life, but was unable to, was this, the story of her great-grandfather Moses Solomon. While her successors may yet, in time, pick up the mantle and polish this into something publishable, this work and these stories have languished too long in her files.*

*Winnie struggled mightily with how to put Moses' life in proper context of time and place. That struggle is evidenced in the various versions of introductions and prologues she wrote over the years. I don't think she was happy with any of them, and was always rewriting and revising. Hence this document includes multiple versions in various forms and shapes, including fragments.*

*Missing are full and proper footnotes and citations. While I've attempted to annotate quoted text where possible, assume there are at least errors of attribution, if not more. Given that Winnie went to 22 different schools growing up, started this research back in the days of microfilm, and began to learn and use a PC well into her seventies, the effort is extraordinary.*

*We now know that Winnie shared some of her research with the authors of a book published in 2007: *The Cypress Hills (An Island by itself)* by Walter Hildebrandt and Brian Hubner, as she is thanked by the authors and her entries are noted in the footnotes. Unfortunately, we do not think that Winnie knew of this publication, she would have enjoyed reading it and seeing her contributions in print.*

*This quote is from a historic landmark sign in Fort Benton. While Winnie had a picture of it, she didn't use it :-)*

---

***The Bloodiest Block in the West***

*"It's a tough town. Walk in the center of the street and keep your mouth shut."  
Gunslingers walked this street; few earned a reputation but more earned eternity here  
that in other fabled western towns.*

*Indians were fair game. Their corpses dumped into the river started war and a massacre.  
Mose Solomon, saloon owner, eliminated two customers on the corner; Lou Marshall  
added Hinchley; and several others gunned down in this street "won't be missed."*

*Poker was played with six-guns atop the table, and females from the brothels were as  
tough as the men. Madame Moustache brandished Colts to halt the landing of a  
steamboat carrying smallpox. Saloons and "houses" stayed open all night. The block was  
lined with barrooms, cathouses and gambling dens – so lawless it had to be circled by a  
cavalry troop so a U.S. Marshal could serve warrants on five of its residents.*

---



Winnie Researching

## Table of Contents

Preamble	June 18, 2012, & 7/1/17	6
	HOW WE BECAME PART OF THE MELTING POT CALLED AMERICANS	6
Prolog	July 2012	7
	Other Prologue Ideas	8
	July 2017	8
	Our Heritage:	8
	Introduction	9
Moses Soloman’s Paper Trail	Old October 2012 version	10
	The Ophir Town Site	11
Mose Solomon Paper Trail	Created July 2011, updated July 2017	12
	1852	17
	1864: The Cannon and the Mule, or Frontier Fun	17
	1864: The Cannon and the Mule version 1	17
	1864: The Cannon and the Mule version 2	18
	MOSES SOLOMON - MONTANA DAYS - 1864 TO 1906	18
	1864: The Cannon and the Mule by John G. Lepley	18
	1864 – Attributed to 1866	19
	Frontier Fun	19
	1866: Indian Office Report	21
	Letter #81, Attitudes of the various tribes to each other	23
	1866	23
	GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE @ 1958	23
	1868: Indian Massacre	25
	1869	27
	1871	28
	1873	29
	1873	30
	1874	31
	1875	32
	1887	38
	1888	40

1900 .....	42
1902 .....	42
1906 .....	43
FORT BENTON .....	44
OPHIR (Ö'far) A proposed township or Port city.....	45
I .....	45
II .....	45
III .....	46
Men Moses Solomon knew.....	46
Emma's Quilt.....	50
Esther Eastlund's Story: THE SUMMER OF 1906 .....	51
Marias River Visit, April 5, 2006 .....	53
Timeline.....	54
Bibliography .....	58
Moses Salomon Family Tree .....	59

## HOW WE BECAME PART OF THE MELTING POT CALLED AMERICANS

*(Dedicated to the descendants of John Eric Eastlund and Esther Larsen Eastlund)*

In 1869 my dad's father, Sven Eastlund, came from Jemtland in northern Sweden with his mother, stepfather, and two sisters. Sven met Emma Johnson at the Spring Garden Lutheran Church in Minnesota. Emma had come from Smoland in southern Sweden in 1866. Reluctant to marry with a debt, Emma delayed their marriage until she could pay back her Swedish benefactor, who had lent money for her transportation. Sven was devoted to his church and a great supporter in establishing the Hope Academy. He managed the Poor farm in Burnside, Minnesota for several years before settling in Moorhead. My dad, John (Eric) Eastlund, was ten years old when his father (Sven) died. Eric and of his four brothers became iron workers.

In 1873, my Mothers father, Zachariah (Zack) Larsen, a bit of a Viking, came with his family from Norway on a ship that was sponsored by the Mormon Church, (along with 700 Mormon converts). Zack's father, Christen Larsen died a year later from blood poison after cutting his foot while plowing. Zack, a teenager didn't get along with his new step dad, so he left home to live among the Indians before drifting into Montana when the cowboy era began where he worked as a round-up cook. Zack married Moses' daughter, Emma Solomon. Zack and Emma Larsen had fourteen children. Esther Larsen, my mother, was second oldest, and I, Winniefred Eastlund Arhelger, am second oldest of Eric and Esther's eight children.

My Mothers grandfather, Moses Solomon, was the first of our ancestors to immigrate. He was of Jewish heritage and came from Beerfelden, Germany; Probably in 1848 or 49. Moses and an older brother, Sol, first lived with an older sister, Esther Lyon in Peoria, Ill. before emigrating to California. Sol returned to Illinois and raised a fine family while Moses followed the gold seekers trail into Montana Territory. Moses married in the Indian way, a woman of the Gross Venture (Grovon) Tribe, named Strike. This gives us American roots deeper than we will ever know, because Indians did not leave a paper trail. We know the names of Strike's parents; Iron Head and Captive Woman and that is all. Strike died of a mysterious cause, probably a poisonous cigarette, before their daughter Emma turned five.

The stories my mother, (Esther Larsen Eastlund) told of her childhood always sounded more exciting than my life. However, it was the stories of her grandfather, Moses Solomon, that captured my interest the most. He told her he had been burned out three times, flooded twice, robbed of all his possessions, and had nine scars from bullet wounds. In addition, he was offered \$50,000 for his interest in a gold mine; but the goldmine played out before he could sell it.

Let this paper trail be my legacy to my children, nieces and nephews as they contemplate their own heritage. My ninety-seventh year has just begun, and it seems to be crucial to finish writing about what I have learned of our forefathers and mothers, before my own last chapter comes to an end.

Moses Solomon's experiences were more spectacular than were those of many others who were attracted to the western territories during the last half of the eighteen-hundreds.

My mother (his granddaughter) always said he was the kindest gentlest man she ever knew. He was a little man, wore a mustache, and every Sunday put on a clean white shirt with ruffles down the front.

In telling us stories about her grandfather Mother said, he had survived three fires, two floods, had been robbed of all his possessions, been chased by Indians, and had scars from seven bullet wounds. Yet he had a great sense of humor and always saw the funny side of things. Still, I puzzled about why he thought Montana was too rough a place to raise girls and tried to send his two daughters by boat down river to relatives in Chicago.

In order to put these stories in perspective I needed to understand how it was to live where cultural conformity differed and clashed. Where gold and land seemed to be free for the taking and how that affected the way people conducted their lives.

By 1869 the Hudson 's Bay Company had relinquished control north of the boundary and the Canadian government had sent no agency to take its place. H.B.C. had always given out a little wine to stimulate trade.

*Editing note: Is there supposed to be a picture here of the men listed below? Added Joe Kipp (da)*

G.I Baker merchant supplier

Joe Kipp son of the old Fort Union Trader Fort Standoff

John J. Healy in 1869 a prospector and town promoter

Alfred B. Hamilton built Fort Whoop Up near Lethenbridge Canada

It was a new area for Fort Benton. Trade in Canada was profitable for the Benton merchants. In the seventies

Other Posts called Stand off, Robbers Roost, Spitzee, and Solomon Slide-Out on the Belly River.

These posts were said to be one of the worst times in Blackfoot history. Disturbed by steady influx of white men on their US hunting ground ,US government refusal to honor treaties made with them, another smallpox epidemic, and the male Indian's hunger for whisky left them destitute.

So we want to know how that happened. We know you came from Germany to Peoria, Ill. with your older brother Sol and sister Esther. In 1850 you found a way through the Isthmus of Panama to take the Steamship Tennessee up to Sacramento. You open up a mattress business, and got burnt out in the great fire of 1852. You quickly rebuilt but, I find no written record of you between 1855 and 1864 when at Fort Benton, Montana the news paper printed a story about a prank that went awry. It seems some solders had just arrived in town with a four-pound howitzer strapped on the back of a mule and they wanted to impress the Indians with the destructive power of the small cannon. They aimed it at a hill across the river and lit the fuse. The mule hearing the hissing behind his ear turned around and around

in circles jumping up and down aiming the cannon in all directions. You, Moses, and a few other towns' men who were witness to the prank jumped over the bank into the Missouri River.

The last time she said good-bye to you, she recalled you sitting in a wagon, your light blue eyes with a far-off look seemed to be scanning the horizon looking for any trouble that might come down out of the hills. You spent your last three winters with your daughter's family at their homestead on the Marias River. Sometimes you would have nightmares in which you would shout "They're coming! They're coming!" and you would be searching around under your pillow for a gun, until Zack your son-in-law would go to your bed and shake you awake saying "Mose, Mose wake up you are just having a bad dream."

## Other Prologue Ideas

July 2017

### Our Heritage:

Although most of my life experience developed away from my place of birth the birth place pull is very strong. For me that place is in Montana where Mother, I and three sisters were born. Not in the beautiful Mountains but in the north central barren desert area up near the Canadian border. The area where my earliest American ancestors roamed, a small peaceful tribe, poor and starving when French traders first met them and named them Gross Venture. It has been said that was the French word for big belly because they were starving when the French men first met them. but they are called Grovon.

Moses Solomon, from a Jewish family in Germany was our first immigrant ancestor. He came to the Montana Territory during the era of gold mining and took part in the last of fur trading with Indians and saw the last of the big buffalo herds. He married in the Indian way a Gross Venture maiden named Strike, daughter of Iron Head and Captive Woman. They had two daughters Emma and Rose and a short marriage. Strike died about a year after Rose was born. (More about Rose later) Emma Solomon Larsen was the mother of my mother, Esther Larsen Eastlund.

*Editing note: Missing pic? (da)*

Zack Larson son Of Christian Larson and Louise

When the gold mines petered out and Moses was none the richer, he opened a saloon in Fort Benton in the Montana Territory to become a fur trader, saloon keeper, horse trader. Corner, and County commissioner.

Later on, Moses Salomon had a Stopping Place on the Marias River, in the vicinity where the Lewis and Clark explorers had camped for two weeks while deciding which muddy stream was the Missouri River. The Gros Ventures camped across the river from where the town Loma is now. His wayside inn, a two-room building, was made of unpainted vertical clap-board, the rear half served as his living quarters, the other room was used for trading at first, until the Indian trade subsided, then a tavern, and later a store. At times it was also the voting place and a shoe-box post office for the community. There he raised turkeys and trotting horses. When his grand children were old enough for school this room was cleaned out and became the community school. In earlier years he ran a ferry at the crossing. Travelers would stop at "Solomon's Place" for refreshment or stay overnight. On this land he also had a long log building of four rooms. All the rooms had a door opening onto a porch that faced the Marias river. This is where the travelers stayed. Other buildings included a ice house and a long building where he raised turkeys, a shed for his trotting horses, a barn and a corral.



In 1874 he married, in the Indian way, a young Gros Venture woman named Strike, the daughter of Iron Head and Captive Woman. They had two daughters, Emma and Rose. Strike died when Rose was about two years old. It's been said she died of mysterious causes, hinting that someone put poison in her smoking tobacco.

Although an advertisement in The Record on October of 1876 claimed Solomon's Hall to be the oldest established house in Fort Benton, he must have spent quite a bit of time away at various places trading with the Indians. In 1870, 1871 and 1872 he had trading posts in Canada. He adapted to the needs of the times. He ran a ferry at the crossing at his Loma place. In anticipation of a stampede to the Bear Paw Mountains, when gold was discovered there, he and a partner built a bridge. Unfortunately, the high water that spring, washed it out. After he sold his ranch on the Marias in 1900, he would spend his winters at his daughter, Emma Larsen, homestead and his summers at the new gold mines in Kendall, Montana. That is where he died.

### Introduction

Viewing from one hundred and fifty years and four to five generations later can we understand Moses Solomon's struggle while living in the ungoverned Territory of Montana's mixed-race frontier during a complicated and sometimes conflicted period of United States history. It seems the question I am asking is, How does one man's life on earth fit part of the National Mosaic?

On May 26th 1864 President A. Lincoln signed into law and act that created a new federal territory called Montana, and on July 14th 1864 gold was discovered at Last Chance Gulch close to what became the city of Helena.. In the east the civil war ended on April 1865. President Lincoln was assassinated.

Moses Solomon was born in the village of Beerfelden, State of Darmstat, in Hessen Germany on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1828 the third son of Abraham Salomon and Babet (Jones). He received a common education and a Hebrew education and may have had an apprenticeship in upholstery before coming to America.

Sol Salomon, his older brother was the first to leave Germany in 1846. I believe Moses and his sister, Esther, came together in or about 1849 because the first written record I found of them was in a book of *Early Peoria Settlers*. It states that Esther Salomon and Simon Lyon, a butcher for five years in New York City, had married in January and had immediately moved to Peoria where they had a grocery store for thirty-five years. The census of 1850 confirms that Sol and Moses were living with Esther and Simon Lyon in Peoria.

To understand what this country looked like to Moses Solomon a new comer who had reached the western edge of population in 1850, I need to recapture a picture of the United States back then when there were only thirty states, and all were east of the Missouri River, except for Texas and California. The rest of the land west of the Missouri River was still large territories with no governance and where western native Americans roamed freely. Years before many tribes of Eastern Indians had been removed to the Oklahoma Territory. The first white settlements began about 1847 when the Mormons, also treated as enemies, made their trek from Nauvoo, Illinois to what would become Salt Lake City. Gold discovered at Sutter's mill 1849 caused people by the thousands to rush to California. I haven't discovered what Moses did during his first two years in Peoria. It seems he got the go-west-fever in 1852. He left for California by way of New Orleans and through the Isthmus of Panama. On the west coast a sailing ship named Tennessee took him up to San Francisco. This of course was before the canal was built and travel through Panama, although the shortest route was probably the most hazardous. Many died from malaria and cholera. Others experienced robbery by pirates and opportunists. It was a very dangerous route. (Four months later the Tennessee went aground. It was the first Pacific Mail steamer to be lost.)

Moses and his brother Sol, who had gone to California a year earlier, set up a shop making mattress in Sacramento. In November their place got burned out in the big Sacramento fire of 1852, they got new material and started up again. Sol returned to Peoria and raised a fine family. Moses was listed in the City directory as Moses Salomon & Co. at 5<sup>th</sup> between J & K Streets until 1855.

At the same time there was another German Jew who went to California with mattress material by the name of Levi Strauss, same age as Moses, He traveled around Cape horn and arrived in San Francisco the same year as Moses did.

He brought heavy denim mattress material with him. Levi soon learned what the miners wanted was strong pants with pockets that wouldn't rip off. So he began making pants with rivets at corners of the pockets when he found that was what the miners needed. The irony in this tale is that Levies became high fashion for women in the 60's, and today fifty years later people want pants that look distressed the more holes and faded spots the better as though pants really got this ragged look from hard work. But his business thrives still to today. What a different story this would be if Moses had done something similar

It seems Moses found way satisfy the miners longing for a cool drink after a long day panning for gold out in the sun. In a newspaper item printed many years later like a historical memory, he is credited as having built the first saloon in Fort Benton, Montana in the year of 1864 called The Medicine Lodge. I have not found any other records of Moses from 1855 to 1864.

*Insert the exodus of Miners up the Colorado river into Montana*

The next story about Moses being in Montana in the 1860's was written as memories of three different people. Except for a few details they are all the same It is called "*Montana Fun*" involving a cannon and a mule.

Searching for stories of Moses life has been a long and interesting journey for me. Moses' older brother Sol wrote an autobiography when he was 84 years old, which gives insight into the way life was in America during the late 1800's. It helped so much in learning about his family. Let me share it with you.

(I received his story from his great- great-grand-daughter, Abby Wolfshimer, after I found an article of her father Irving Salomon in Who's Who. )

**\*\*Insert Sol's story here \*\***

I would so like to give you a firsthand description of this man I would have addressed as great grandpa, but I can only repeat what other said about him. His friends called him Mose. The news papers spelled his last name Solomon, while for the most part his relatives kept the *a* as in Salomon. Other people have said this of him:

1. Add a description of M.S. here 2. describe Montana fur trade 3. town of Benton. 4. The cannon incident 5. Building Ophir 6. then news Paper stories by year

2.....Fur trading about Fort Benton

the north west. It began in Montana after the Hudson Bay and the Northwest Companies merged in 1828.

5.....Ophir, (O'fer) O as in over, ( far, a as in alone )

## [The Ophir Town Site](#)

About the same time Moses shows up in Fort Benton something was happening down river at the mouth of the Marias close to the place where Louis & Clark had camped in 1805 while deciding which muddy river was the Missouri. Moses was not involved in this tragic turn of events, but twenty-nine years later it became a place where he would be a squatter until it became possible to file for a patent and where his granddaughter, Esther Larsen, my mother was born.

This tale of a massacre began in July of 1864 when the steamship Cutter with 200 tons of freight and 250 passengers developed mechanical trouble and had to pull in at the mouth of the Marias 25 river miles downriver from Fort Benton. As it was late in the season the Captain James Moore had to stay with his boat and wait until the next season for repairs. Looking around he saw the site as a great place for a city. It could capture some of the shipping traffic and perhaps extend the shipping season a bit longer as the river below was navigable longer. He drew up some plans for the town of Ophir on south side of the Marias, a North Ophir, where Loma is now, and a East Ophir all of 320 acres each. Then he went down

to the mining camps at Virginia city where he was successful in raising money, sold some lots, got charters for everything needed such as wharves, freighting roads, a railroad, warehouses and organized a company with N.W. Burris in charge building. In the spring of 1865 Burris with a large group of men set up a saw mill, built warehouses and a number of cabins and corrals. Everything was going fast and well until the evening of May 25 when Burris and Frank Angevine, with eight men, a team of oxen, and a wagon left to go upstream about five miles to floating 300 previously cut house logs downstream to the site. After a while, gun shots were heard.

## Mose Solomon Paper Trail

Created July 2011, updated July 2017

### MOSES SOLOMON

Our first direct line ancestor to come to America was Moses Solomon. He was born in the village of Beerfelden, State of Darmstat, in Hessen Germany, on the 15th of August 1830, the third child of Abraham Solomon and Babett (Jonas). He received a common education and a Hebrew education and he probably had an apprenticeship in upholstery before leaving Germany. I assume Moses and his older sister, Esther, left Germany together around 1848 and stayed in New York a short while. Sol their oldest brother was the first to immigrate in 1846. Esther married Simon Lyons, a butcher, in 1850 and they promptly emigrated to Peoria, Illinois, where they had a grocery business for 35 years. It was at Peoria's Public Library where I picked up the first paper trail to Moses' life and the 1850 Census confirmed that Moses and Sol were living with Esther and Simon in Peoria.

In 1851 Moses left Peoria for California. He went by way of New Orleans and through Central America at the Isthmus of Panama. On the west coast he took the sailing ship named "Tennessee" to San Francisco and traveled by land to Sacramento. This of course was long before the Panama Canal was built. At this time traveling through Panama was the shortest route, it was also the most hazardous. As malaria and cholera was prevalent and travelers were often robbed by pirates and opportunists. It was a very dangerous route in which many men lost their lives. (Four months later the Tennessee went aground. It is said to be the first Pacific Mail steamer to be lost).

To understand how the United States may have looked to newcomers in the mid eighteen hundreds, I need to picture the U. S. as it was then, with only thirty states all east of the Mississippi River, except for Texas and California. The land west of the Mississippi was still divided into large territories containing few settled areas, and native Americans and buffalo roamed freely.

After Lewis and Clark had explored a water route to the Pacific coast in 1805 it still took almost fifty years before settlers were attracted in large enough numbers to form communities. Fur traders were the first to make their fortunes from this virgin land. They set up their posts and made trails, but didn't bring families and build homes. One might say, the Mormon's formed the first community when they migrated from Nauvoo, Illinois in 1847 and settled at Salt Lake City. Railroads did not reach the Mississippi River in the early fifties; it wasn't until 1869 when the Pacific Railway was built as far west as Salt Lake City. Gold in California attracted people from all over the world in 1849. People traveled by the thousands through the territories and via water routes on their way to California.

In 1850 Moses took his mattress making material and a water route through Panama to California. He set up shop in Sacramento, and was burned out in the 1852 fire and rebuilt. The city directory lists

Moses Salomon & Co. Mattress Makers as being on 5th between J and K streets until 1855. I have not found a paper trail of him during the next nine years until 1864 when newspaper article credits Solomon's Hall as being the oldest established house in Fort Benton, Montana Territory. He remained in Montana the rest of his life.

\*\*

There he saw the end of the buffalo, and cattle driven up from Texas by cowboys which thrived on the buffalo grass as they ranged freely. He was still there when homesteaders began to build fences.

\*\*

Moses' brother, Sol wrote a story of his life when he was 84 years old. I received a copy of it from his great granddaughter, Abby.. I'd like to share it with you just as he wrote it.

(Note: spelling of name Salomon in earliest papers - became Solomon in later years.)

~

*On Chicago, January 1, 1910*

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*I, Sol Salomon, was born in Bergenau on the Bergstrase, 6 miles south of Rimbach in Hessen Darmstat in Odenwald Germany. Born 1827 April 9 lived until 1829 in Bergenau, my grandparents moved to Beerfelden, my grandfather Jonas dealt in cattle and horses, my grandmother I did not know. My father's name was Abraham Salomon, my mother's name was Babett. In Beerfelden my father dealt in all kinds of leather for shoemakers, harness maker and findings. My father also dealt in hides, peltz and furs. When I was 5 years old I broke my leg and was laid up for 6 months, the following year I went to school; I had a common education and a Hebrew education. When I was 13 years old I left school and had to work for my father until I was 18 years old, I then emigrated to America. I left Beerfelden by wagon to Mainz on Rhein, I then took a steamer to Rottendam, then taken another steamer to London arrived in London May 1, 1846, the next day I shipped on a sailing vessel called the Northern Inland. I was 60 days from London to New York, arrived July 2 in New York. I met a friend and he tried to get work for me but failed, so he old me the best you can do is to go peddling goods in the country and you learn English, so I bought goods I had a few dollars left and went out in the country one week sold almost all the goods and made \$9.00, I then bough more goods and was gone 2 weeks and made \$23.00, and so I kept on for 2 years and saved about \$350.00. Then I want to make more I was not satisfied, I then went West to Illinois and then bought me a horse and wagon and make my home at Peoria. I peddled in the State of Illinois for 3 years; I then settled down in Peoria and bought a grocery store; in the meantime my sister came to Peoria and took her in partnership and in 1851 in March I sailed for California, first to New Orleans and then to Central America, I was in that country about 6 months buying hides and coffee and shipped to New Orleans, done very well then I went to Groosing Isthmus and missed a steamer going to San Francisco, I then took a sail vessel and were 124 days on the*

*Pacific Ocean, I got to San Francisco 12th of August 1851. I got a job right away in a Wholesale Dry Goods store by the name Shoos Brothers, I was with them 6 months, one day I went to the Steamboat Landing and a steamer came in from Panama and my brother Moses came out unexpected, I asked him what he intend to do so I told him we will go to Sacramento and start a Upholstering Store he knew how to make mattresses so I bought goods and we started a store at Sacramento and done well we could not manufacture fast enough and in 1852 we got burned out at the time Sacramento fire. The next day I took a steamer to San Francisco and bought fresh stock goods and also a tent so we was protected from rain and sun and kept up our work. We was one of the first ones to start again, in the same time I received letters from sister Esther to come home to Peoria the business is getting to large for them to tend to, so the following October 1, 1853 I started for home; when I got back to Peoria my parents had come from Germany and all my sisters and brothers. I bought them a nice house and a lot out on the prairie where they could keep a cow chicken and had a large garden and they lived very comfortable. I then started in my business and don a bigger business than before, I also branched out into clothing business and livery and dealing horses. In 1855 in April I went to Cincinnati to purchase summer stock and fell in love with my past wife Sophia Rosenfeld was her maiden name got married 4 weeks later and brought her home to Peoria commenced keeping house right off, lived happy together and don good business. The following February 1856 my wife brought a fine healthy boy bought the first-born. In 1858 I desolved partnership with Esther, sister. I then kept the old store and they commence a store right close by. In 1863 I sold out and went to Chicago bought out Henry Horner on 78 West Randolph St. I was in that store 5 years and then I went in Manufacture of tobacco, was in that business 3 years did not like it to much credit business. I then went into Retail Grocery my family got to be large and stayed in that business until 1881 sold out and have not been in business, my sons did not want me working anymore. We had one daughter her name was Nancy she died when she was six years old a year after my oldest son Harry died he was 16 years old this was very hard on my wife and myself. I was very much discouraged. In 1906 January 24 my wife died, since then I lived with my younger son Leo up to this date I have six sons, the oldest is Moses, A.D. Salomon, Mark, Joseph, Wm. E and Leo Salomon. Mark has 3 children Violet, Harold and Earl, Ab had one boy Irvin, Joseph has one girl Henett and Joseph junior. As for health is just fair. On January 3, 1911 my son Moses died. March the 8 my son Wm. E. Salomon was presented by his wife with a son his name is W.E. Junior. April the 9th I celebrated my 84th anniversary and had a very fine time."*

~

Back to Moses or "Mose" as he was called. My Mother, his granddaughter, Esther (Larsen) Eastlund, knew him well. She was 16 years old when he died. She describes Moses Salomon as a kind, gentle, neat, loving man. Although, small of stature he was strong and fearless. He had a little thin mustache and chewed tobacco. Every Sunday he put on a clean white starched shirt, that had tucks down the front, and a bow tie. She says, "A kinder, gentler man never lived." When away he would send candy and fruit to the family by the railroad engineer. His eyes were light blue and he always seemed to be

looking off scanning the horizon as though looking for any trouble that might be coming down out of the hills. To be a pioneer and settler, one must first be a survivor, and that he was, as the many stories about him prove. With his sense of humor he was quick to see the funny side of a situation.

In telling stories of her grandfather Mother often repeated this long litany of happenings as he told it: "I was burned out three times, flooded out twice and had all my possessions stolen. I have scars from 9 bullet wounds. Once I was offered \$45,000 for my interest in a gold mine but, I was holding out for \$50,000 when the mine played out. A historian offered me a handsome sum to write my biography but I refused because I had to do some things I'm not proud of and I didn't want to embarrass my family who were doing well back in the states. I thought Montana was too rough a place to bring girls up in, so I made plans, after their mother died, to send Emma and Rose to my sister in Chicago to raise.

Emma was five, old enough to know what was going on. She cried so hard I thought I should try to keep one. (More about that and Rose in another chapter.)

The circumstances behind these curious stories captured my attention causing me to spend about forty years of spare time searching vital records and old newspapers seeking to verify each incident. So it seems appropriate to call this tale a newspaper trail. Through the eyes of others we'll learn how the people he lived among judged him.

The first official documentation I found for our earliest immigrants was in the United States Census of 1850 where we find Moses living in Peoria, with his sister Esther and her husband Simon Lyon and brother Sol Salomon. Their brother-in-law Simon was also German born. Simon had been a butcher in New York for about five years before he married Esther in 1850 and they promptly moved to Peoria, Illinois where the Lyons kept a grocery business for 35 years.<sup>1</sup>

Apparently restless or dissatisfied with the progress he was making in Peoria, Moses left for California in spite of his sister's warning about all the bad things that could happen to him. He took the water route traveling down river to New Orleans, crossing the Gulf of Mexico and Central America at the Isthmus of Panama. On the west coast he took a sailing ship named "Tennessee" to San Francisco. This was long before the Panama Canal was built and travel through Panama, although, the shortest route was probably the most hazardous. Many encountered malaria or cholera or were robbed by pirates and opportunists. It was a very dangerous route in which many men lost their lives.<sup>2</sup>

It doesn't seem he was caught up in the gold-fever at first, but that his aim was to be a tradesman. His story would be quite different if he had done as Levi Strauss did. Levi came to San Francisco the same year as Moses, and converted his mattress material into durable jeans for the gold diggers. Levi's enterprising adaptation to needs of the people keeps his name alive today.

In San Francisco Moses met his brother Sol at the dock. They went up to Sacramento where Moses put his upholstery knowledge to good use and together they set up a mattress making business. They were doing well and could hardly manufacture fast enough to keep up with the trade until the great Sacramento fire on Nov. 2, 1852 burned them out. As Sol wrote in his story, the next day they went to San Francisco and bought a fresh stock of goods, and kept at their work. After Sol returned to Peoria,

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<sup>1</sup> *Find this census record and Lyon's story, put in the appendix and reference it here.)*

<sup>2</sup> Four months after his trip the Tennessee went aground. It was the first Pacific Mail steamer to be lost.

Moses stayed in California. Moses Salomon & Co. (Mattress Makers) located on 5th between J & K Streets, was listed in the Sacramento City directory until 1855.

I have not been able to find any written records of where he traveled or what he was doing between 1855 and 1864 until I found newspaper articles written by several people as memoirs about a humorous incident involving, a mule, a cannon, and Fort Benton men, including Moses Solomon, jumping over the river bank into the muddy Missouri. Moses might have joined the gold stampede to Idaho and Montana that took place about 1855. Or he may have been a passenger in the 1857 exodus, on one of the many ships that left San Francisco and were abandoned in the Columbia River. Many gold seekers then went overland to seek gold at Walla Walla, Boise, Alder Gulch, Last Chance, and Confederate. Eulogies printed in The River Press and The Kendall Mine News at his death say that he was at these mines. From these eulogies I try to see him as his fellow men saw him.

This was from THE RIVER PRESS FT. BENTON Sept 5, 1906

#### *MOSE SOLOMON WAS A TRAILBLAZER*

*The death of Mose Solomon, which was reported from Kendall a few days ago, removed another of the fast disappearing band of trail blazers who began the work of transforming the northwest wilderness from an abode of savages to a home for civilized and progressive people. He was one of the early pioneers who were attracted to California in 1849, and later took part in the gold stampedes to Walla Walla, Boise and Alder Gulch. He eventually drifted to northern Montana and made his home in this locality for nearly forty years.*

*Mr. Solomon's personal experiences of early day life would make a most interesting narrative, but they have never been committed to writing and are for the most part forgotten even by those to whom they have been verbally related. He took part in many exciting events connected with the pursuit of outlaws and battles with Indians, and in buffalo hunting days endured the many hardships and perilous situations incident to that occupation. One of his close calls happened in a fight with Indians at Fort Union in 1868, when Mr. Solomon was shot in the foot. Some four years later he had a narrow escape from death in an Indian fight in the Cypress Hills, when about a dozen white men cleaned out an Indian Camp of some forty lodges. He had a miraculous escape from being murdered by Jeff Perkins in 1874, when the latter induced Mr. Solomon to enter a room, and after locking the door shot at him several times, one of the bullets hitting close to a vital spot. Perkins was tried for the murderous assault and was given a ten-year sentence.*

*An amusing story of one of Mose Solomon's experiences has frequently been told, but will bear repetition. He was once placed under arrest by the military at this point, and put in the guard house. The prisoner sent for Judge Tattam, then a practicing attorney of this city, and told him the cause of the trouble, whereupon his legal adviser remarked: "Why, Mose, they cannot put you in the guard house for such an offense." That may be so" replied the Prisoner, "but here I am ".*



1852

THE DAILY UNION

Feb, 3, 1852

MARINE INTELLIGENCE

PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO,

Feb. 1, 1852

CLEARED

Jan. 31 -- PMS CO's steamer Tennessee, Totten, Panama; 350 passengers, \$1,600,000; E. Knight

1864: The Cannon and the Mule, or Frontier Fun

*Ed Note: There are multiple historical versions of this story, and multiple versions that Winnie rewrote. TBD are accurate citations and references.*

1864: The Cannon and the Mule<sup>3</sup>

version 1

Now back to the first newspaper articles I found which seems to confirmed that Moses Solomon was in Fort Benton, Montana in 1864. Several memoirs have been written by men who witnessed to this event but related it later in their life. One report said it happened on the fourth of July, others dated it as October or November when a treaty with Government men and Indians was to take place. They all agree that it happened when there was a large group of people at Fort Benton. Indian from many tribes camped in the vicinity, Army people, Commissioners, A Diamond R freight train with trade goods and travelers who had just come up from Cow Island, as the river was too low for the steamship to reach Fort Benton at that season. Following the freight train was a mule with a four-pound howitzer strapped on its back.

With such a large groups of Indians around the men in charge of the cannon were inspired to demonstrate its power to the Indians by discharging it at a target across the river. With all the people gathered around the mule with the cannon was positioned with his rear pointing at the target. An extra heavy load of buckshot was put in the cannon, and the man in charge of the mule stood in front holding the mule's head by the rings of the bit in each hand. The business end of the cannon to the rear facing a target across the river and the fuse was lit.

The hissing sound of the burning fuse made the mule lay down his ears and begin putting a hump in his back; next thing he whirled round and round, in spite of his manager trying to get him back in his first position. By this time everybody was running for dear life, and the mule was making the circle faster than ever, and the gun was liable to go off at any moment. There was a perfect stampede. People scattered in all directions. Col. Broadwater, Moses Solomon, H.A. Kennerly and Joe Healy dove over the river bank to a wet landing. Matt Carroll, George Steell and James Arnoux sprinted up the street and Hi Upham, Bill Hamilton and Johnny Healy laid on the ground. Others were crawling on their hands and knees I. G. Baker and two of the peace commissioners ran for the fort. The Indians sort of stood around, wondering what all the excitement was about. With a sudden puff of smoke the cannon discharged and

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<sup>3</sup>*Copied in bits and pieces from published articles.*

"Blackfoot Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri" by John G Lepley, page 233 has another account of this incident

grape shot headed toward the fort. The man held onto the bridle and luckily on account of the bend in the mule's back, the shot struck the ground but a short distance from his heels.

"Many of the Indians never moved, thinking that the maneuvers of the mule were part of the performance."

1864: The Cannon and the Mule

version 2

At Fort Benton in 1864, a demonstration of a mountain howitzer literally backfired for the commissioners from Washington who wanted to impress a group of Indians with the terrible effectiveness of the weapon. In this case the cannon was mounted on the back of a mule which was led out near the riverbank. A large crowd, half of them Indians, gathered to watch the proceedings.

The commissioners decided to fire the howitzer from the back of the mule at a high bank across the river. "A certain spot was shown to the Indians where the shot was supposed to hit," said Robert Vaughn, one of the spectators. "To strike the spot designated on the clay bank, which loomed up like some old castle, and extra heavy load was put in. Finally the man in charge of the mule stood in front of the quadruped with the rings of the bit in each hand. Now he has the business end of the mule where he wants it; another man was adjusting the cannon and, taking aim, while the third one took a match from his vest pocket, scratched it on the hip of his pants and touched the fuse.

"The hissing sound of the burning fuse made the mule lay down his ears and begin putting a hump in his back; next thing he whirled round and round, in spite of his manager trying to get him back in his first position. By this time everybody was going for dear life, and the mule was making the circle faster than ever, and the gun was liable to go off at any moment. There was a perfect stampede; many went over the bank into the river, others were crawling on their hands and knees, while many laid flat on the ground, broadcloth and buckskin alike—the man held to the bridle and the mule held the fort. Luckily on account of the bend in the mule's back, the shot struck the ground but a short distance from his heels.

"Many of the Indians never moved, thinking that the maneuvers of the mule were part of the performance."

MOSES SOLOMON - MONTANA DAYS - 1864 TO 1906

1864: The Cannon and the Mule by John G. Lepley

***From "Blackfoot Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri" by John G Lepley, page 233***

*Some attribute the legend to the Fourth of July, but it probably occurred at the opening of festivities during the late October treaty. Gladstone's diary set the stage by remarking that the last wagon train out of Cow Island that year carried an old four-pounder that was being taken to Helena. The 1884 account of the incident in the River Press mentioned that a Diamond R freight train had arrived from Cow Island and the travelers camped on the flats. The barrel of a four-pounder was strapped to the back of one of the mules. Some thought it might be a good idea to show the Indian the strength of the "little gun" by discharging it while strapped to the back of the mule.*

*Most of the townspeople and many chiefs from the encampments were present. Near the main entrance to the fort, the mule was led to the bank of the river. The muzzle of*

*the cannon was pointed toward the mule's tail and the cannon loaded with grapeshot. The appointed officer, none other than X Beidler, inserted a fuse and touched it off. When the quiet mule heard the sizzling just back of its ears, it turned its head to investigate. The River Press continued: "As he did so his body turned and the howitzer began to take in other points of the compass. The mule became more excited as his curiosity became more and more intense, and in a few seconds he either had his four feet in a bunch, making more revolutions a minute than the bystanders dared count, with the howitzer threatening destruction to everybody within a radius of a quarter of a mile, or he suddenly would try standing on his head with his heels and howitzer at a remarkable angle in the air."*

*The whites and Indians scattered in all directions. Col. Broadwater, Mose Solomon, H.A. Kennerly and Joe Healy dove over the river bank to a wet landing. Matt Carroll, George Steell and James Arnoux sprinted up the street and Hi Upham, Bill Hamilton and Johnny Healy sought shelter on the ground. I.G. Baker and two of the peace commissioners ran for the fort. The Indians sort of stood around, wondering what all the excitement was about. With a sudden puff of smoke the cannon discharged and grape shot headed toward the fort.*

*According to the paper, the mule "with his heels in mid-air, was shaken with the most violent agitation...oh where was he? Ask of the wind, for no soul saw him and they will tell you a lonely, forlorn mule might have been seen turning over and over until he tumbled over the bank with the howitzer and cast anchor in the river." The shot hit the buffalo painted over the main gate which was well perforated. With tongue in cheek the River Press said it was X. Beidler's first buffalo. The Indians departed, still wondering about the crazy antics of the Bentonites.*

1864 – Attributed to 1866

Frontier Fun

**From MONTANA the Magazine of Western History, Volume five October 1955 number four Page 58, (reprinted from the Fort Benton River Press of December 24, 1884)**

*In the month of November 1866, it will be remembered by many of our old citizens a treaty was made at Fort Benton by Gov. McNamara, Maj. Upham and other government officials with the different tribes of northern Indians, viz.: Piegans, Bloods, Blackfeet and Gros Ventres, it being the largest assembly of Indians ever known on the Benton flat. The country for miles around was covered by Indian cayuses, for at that time the tribes were rich in horses, each chief often having many hundred.*

*A large train of the Diamond R Transportation Company was also camped on the flats. They had transported a fourteen Pound howitzer on the back of a faithful mule from the steamer Shreveport, which had unloaded her cargo at Cow Island or some point near. The howitzer had been left for the protection of freight, which, on account of the extremely low stage of water, could not be brought to the fort by boat. With the last load of freight came the gun, as above stated.*

*The immense congregation of Indians caused the men in charge of the "little gun" to conceive the idea of showing the Indians its strength by discharging it from the back of a mule. Many of the old timers hearing of the project went to witness the experiment, expecting to see the mule turning double somersaults over the bank of the river. The howitzer, loaded with grapeshot, was securely fastened upon the back of a large, sleepy looking train mule, with the muzzle pointed toward the tail, and the patient, unsuspecting animal was led to the bank of the river near the present site of T. C. Power & Bro.'s store, and a target set up across the river. The rear of the mule was turned toward the target, and arranged in a semi-circle around that mule were train men, officers and wondering Indians, well besprinkled by our curious old-timers. A chief of ceremonies having been appointed, he advanced, and when all was in readiness. inserted a time fuse in the touch-hole of the howitzer, retired. In a short time the quiet, unruffled mule heard a fizzing just back of his ears, which made him uneasy, and he immediately began to investigate. As he did so his body turned and the howitzer began to take in other points of the compass. The mule became more excited as his curiosity became more and more intense, and in a few seconds he either had his four feet in a bunch, making more revolutions in a minute than the bystanders cared to count, with the howitzer threatening destruction to everybody within a radius of a quarter of a mile, or he suddenly would try standing on his head with his heels and howitzer at a remarkable angle in the air. The chief was so excited he was seen vainly trying to climb the flag staff: the train men and Indians scattered pell-mell over the flat toward the bluffs, running as if they thought in flight lay their only safety, and that too, at a rate of speed much greater than grapeshot. Judging from the alacrity with which Col. Broadwater, H. A. Kennerly, Jo. Healy and Mose Solomon slid over the bank of the river, they were not opposed to immersion: Matt. Carroll, George Steel and James Arnoux toward the store, which occupied the present site of Sullivan's saddlery shop, and the Overland; Hi. Upham, J.J. Healy and Bill Hamilton began to throw up breastworks with their sheath knives: Capt. Nelse rolled promiscuously on the ground and groaned, while I. G. Baker and one or two of the peace commissioners were turning back hand-springs toward the fort.*

*While the mule, with his heels in mid air, was shaken with the most violent agitation, there was a puff of smoke, a thud, and the mule – oh, where was he? Ask of the winds, for not a soul saw him and they will tell you a lonely, forlorn mule might have been seen turning over and over until finally he tumbled over the bank with his howitzer and cast anchor in the river, while the shot went toward the fort, striking the figure of a buffalo that was used as an advertisement at the fort, and which hung there until within the last two or three years, and which many of the citizens of Fort Benton will remember was well perforated with balls. Future investigation and development have brought to light the fact that X. Biedler was the commander in chief elected and that it was his first buffalo.*

## 1866: Indian Office Report

From U.S. COMMISSION OF ANNUAL REPORTS

INDIAN OFFICE REPORT 1866

Micro film ROLL 4158 card 2 Page 198

(This is a report from Major G. E. Upson written by his chief Clerk H. D. Upham at agency in Benton)

Benton City, Jan. 9, 1866

Dear, Sir:

*As Mr. Berkins and Edward Beedle leave here in the morning for Helena, I take the opportunity of writing you. I will commence on the Indian question. The Gros Ventres are camped on Milk river, and are, I think inclined to keep their treaty stipulations with the whites. I have this day returned from their camp, where I went in search of two white men, under the following circumstances.*

*About the first of December last Hunicke and Legree, in company with two Gros Ventres Indian boys, went to the Gros Ventres camp after horses. After getting the horse, they started back, coming through the Bear's Paw mountain. Two squaws and two Indians (Gros Ventres coming to the fort) were added to the party on their return trip.*

*After one day's travel it began to snow, and Hunicke told one of the Indians to go back to camp and get some sugar, while he (Hunicke) and party would go on a little further and build a cabin, where they would remain until the storm was over. The Indian, (who was Hunicke's brother-in-law, Walanee,) accordingly returned to the Gros Ventres Camp, where on account of the severity of the storm, he was compelled to remain eight days. They then started on the trip back, and supposing that Hunicke and Legree and party had come on to the fort, he came by way of the wagon road. On his arrival here without the balance of the party, he was sent back in search of them. He went as far as he dared, and then turned back on account of the Piegans, who are fairly swarming in that section in search of Gros Ventres' horses and scalps.*

*It had now got to be New Years and no tidings from Hunicke and party. An attempt was made to raise a party of whites to go in search, which resulted in nine men coming forward, two of whom afterwards "weakened," leaving seven. The party consisted of Bill Hamilton, Henry Kennedy, Joe Kipp, Moses Solomon, John the Tailor, and another white man and myself. Not a Frenchman would go or lend us a horse. After much difficulty we succeeded in obtaining some horses, or rather scarecrows, and on the 3d of this month, with the above-mentioned Indian as a guide, we started directly for the Gros Ventres Camp, where we expected to find some tidings. We arrived on the 3d day in Furnasse's camp of thirty lodges, but learned that nothing had been heard form the missing party. But we here ascertained that while Hunicke and party were in the Gros Ventres camp, a party of Piegans were down the river stealing Crow and Gros Ventres' horses. That the party was headed by one called the Eagle Rib, who was made a chief at the late treaty. That the Crow and Gros Ventres killed nine of them, and that the*

*balance started for home, and took the same route that Hunicke and Legree did the day after they left the camp. Also that a couple of young Gros Ventres warriors, who had followed the Piegans, had just returned to camp and reported that over near the Sweet Grass hills they had found a horse shot that belonged to Legree.*

*We desired to go through the Bear's Paw on our return, but our horses were entirely given out, and the Indians did not care to go for us. although they promised to. We came back, and when we arrived at the Marias we learned from some trappers that the Piegans and Party had passed there with the same number of horses that Hunicke and Legree had with them. There is no doubt but what Hunicke, Legree and party, were killed by the Piegans. About a month since a war party of Bloods came across the river here, with some horses from the Yellowstone country. One of them had a purse of gold which he traded to a half-breed here for a blanket. From here they went to the Piegan camp and sent word back from there that they had killed three white men on the Yellowstone.*

*They had another large purse of gold in camp, also a white man's revolver, &c. These things were seen by the half-breed Gandapee, who has been in the Piegan camp. The Piegans are getting so that they pay no respect to their treaty stipulations, either as regards the whites or other Indians. Just two weeks after you left, there was not a day but that war parties of Piegans were passing here on their way to and from the Pend d Oreille camp. While we were in the Gros Ventres camp, the other day a party of fifty-two Piegans, headed by Little Dog's son, were in the vicinity waiting for a chance to "raise" some horses. We whites were called to a council of chiefs in the Gros Ventres camp, when the Many Bear and other chiefs, after smoking in silence for an hour or two, said: "Why do the whites sit still and let the Piegans and Bloods steal their horses and kill them like dogs." "They the (whites) "keep telling us to keep still, keep still, keep still, and we have kept still until the Piegans have stolen all our horses and killed many of our warriors, and now that they have killed the best two friends we had among the whites, Hunicke and Legree, we have stopped keeping still, and now it shall be war to the death." Such was their speech.*

*They feel very bad about Legree and Hunicke, who you know both had Gros Ventres women. The Gros Ventres and Crows are camped near together.*

*You are probably aware that the Peigans killed Michelle Ogden's herder, a half-breed, and took all his horses. The party who did it were not young warriors, but old men and heads of families. Things have got so here that even the travelers at this point are taking measures to protect themselves. and property.*

*We are now organizing a vigilance committee here among the whites. Nearly all the horses on the bottom are in the Piegan camp, which is about fifty miles from here on the Marias. The North Bloods are moving this way. I have written the governor a statement of the facts as above narrated. I am afraid but little freighting will be done here next spring., without these gentlemen are whipped during the winter.*

*Bill Berkins has and order for the howitzer from the governor, and will take it with him to-day. John Healy goes from here to-day to Sun river, with United States Marshal Edward Beedle, for the purpose of obtaining possession of the farm.*

*Please let me know what boat the goods are shipped on in the spring.*

*Yours, truly, H. D. UPHAM, Major Gad E. Upson.*

[Major Gad E. Upson died in San Francisco in March of 1866 on his way to Washington with a treaty he had concluded with the Blackfeet Nation in November.]

Letter #81, Attitudes of the various tribes to each other

Letter # 81 by Hiram D. Upham Deputy Agent for Blackfeet

To Hon. D. N. Cooley, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D. C.

Writes in part about the attitudes of various tribes to each other .

*"The Bloods, Blackfeet, and Piegans are, in fact, all one people, and although they inhabit different portions of the country, yet they all talk the Blackfeet language, are intermarried together, and communicate to each other every move made by the whites. The Gros Ventres, on the other hand, are of a different nation. They number about two hundred and fifty, perhaps two hundred and seventy five, lodges. Ever since the conclusion of the treaty they have kept their part of it with all faith. They are living on Milk river and on the Missouri. They are some two hundred and fifty miles from here. They are at peace with both tribes of the Crows, but at war with the Blackfeet, Bloods and Piegans. They usually camp and live with the Lower Crows. I would respectfully call your attention to the necessity of establishing a separate agency for the Crows and Gros Ventres. It is impossible to make any lasting peace between these tribes.*

1866

GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE @ 1958

**Missouri River Boat Trip of 92 Years Ago Affords Contrast to Present Leisure Rides  
by Tribune Correspondent**

*MALTA-An account of a boat trip down the Missouri River from Fort Benton to Sioux City Iowa, 92 years ago by a party of five men affords a decided contrast to accounts of recent pleasure and sightseeing trips down that same river from Fort Benton to Fort Peck*

*The trip was made by five men, Joe Kipp, son of James Kipp of the American Fur company some of whose descendants are well known in Phillips county; John Largent, Bob Mills, Henry Kennerly and Mose Solomon. Their boat was a Mackinaw-a scow-like*

*flat-bottomed affair with a crude pole tiller. Sails could be hoisted to take advantage of favorable winds.<sup>4</sup>*

*The area between Fort Benton and the mouth of the Mussellshell was Indian country and particularly dangerous that summer of 1866. The Blackfeet Indians were hostile, angered by the slaughtering of a party of Blackfeet men, women and children by white trappers. Then too, the river, being the main thoroughfare into central Montana, had become hideouts and hangouts of outlaws, killers, mining claim jumpers and other such nefarious characters.*

*Largent had been working as a hunter for \$19 per month. He and Kipp, then a young man, decided their fortunes might be bettered in the Fort Edmonton territory. They set out for the north only to have their horses stolen by a Blackfoot party. The two men walked 200 miles back to Fort Benton.*

*They both wanted to go east and had made arrangements to accompany a party of 11 men. Fortunately for them they did not make connections with the party. With Mills, Kennerly and Solomon they left shortly in the Mackinaw.*

*The trip was uneventful until they reached the vicinity of Cow island. There they surprised a party of Blackfeet hunters. The Indians had secured a supply of liquor and the travelers, by rigging up a sale and taking advantage of a brisk west wind, sailed by the drunken Indians at a fast clip. The Indians ran to the river bank and shouted imprecations, but were unable to organize any kind of an attack.*

*Reaching the mouth of the Mussellshell, they discovered the wrecked boat and the bodies of the 11 men who had started down river ahead of them. The bodies were mutilated beyond recognition and one man had been staked at the bank of the river, just out of reach of water. He had died, a victim of insects and thirst.*

*A short distance downstream from the gruesome scene, the party decided to stop at a woodcutters' camp. These camps, located at intervals along the river bank to be picked up by river boats for fuel.*

*The Largent party tied their boat at the landing and went up to the cabin which appeared to be abandoned. Upon entering, however, they discovered the mutilated bodies of five men on the dirt floor. One was a Negro whose body was so full of arrows that "He looked like a porcupine," Largent said. Whether it was the party of drunken Blackfeet who had been responsible for both killings and were celebrating the affairs was never learned.*

*After passing the mouth of Milk River, the country became increasingly more populous and safe. The trip to Sioux Falls was made without further incident, except an occasional grounding on sand bars or drenching in sudden summer showers.*

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<sup>4</sup> add footnotes to refer to Kipp, Largent, Mills, Kennerly



*At the lively river city of Sioux Falls they disembarked, dressed in their best, had their pictures taken and proceeded to enjoy themselves. They never did go on to St. Louis and eventually worked their way back to Montana as hunters or guides for hunting parties.*

Later all five men got involved in fur trading. About the same time the beaver hat market was declining in Europe the demand in the east was needing the heavy leather of buffalo hides for industrial belts. the Hudson Bay Co. leaving way for the American Fur Co. to take over the shipping because Montana's water routes could better handle the transportation of the heavy buffalos hides.

As these men became pals of Moses in his early days at Fort Benton and were typical of so many other men of that day I'll include what I have read about them. My sources are mostly from Hugh A. Dempsey's FIREWATER and Joel Overholser's FORT BENTON WORLD'S INNERMOST PORT.

*JOE KIPP:*

Son of James J. Kipp, a Canadian born in Montreal, Canada, born 1788 and Martha Garneaux, a Mandan Indian.

JOE KIPP Son of James Kipp,<sup>1</sup> (Firewater, by Hugh A. Dempsey pp75) a chief trader with the American Fur Company, and Earth Woman, a member of the Mandan tribe. Joe was educated in St. Joseph, Missouri. When he returned from school at the age of eighteen, he was employed by the firm of Carroll & Steel.

*HENRY KENNERLEY:*

In July 1869 Two Government herders were killed near Fort Benton. Goerge Houk, Henerly Kennerly and Peter Lukins went on a rampage of revenge. Houk stormed into the home of William Gladstone. Dragged out an elderly Peigan named Heavy Charging in the Bush, and murdered him in the street. With him was a fourteen-year old boy who was also killed.

*BOB MILLS:*

*JOHN LARGENT:*

1868: Indian Massacre

*December 30, 1868*

*HELENA WEEKLY HERALD*

*Our Benton Correspondence*

*Benton, M. T. Dec. 30 1868*

*To the Editors of the Herald:*

*Why is it that communications on subjects which have reached you through other sources, should not have been received by you and published long ago. I cannot conjecture, unless the fault is attributable to the save thing that detains the HERALD from us till its news is stale. I have sent you a dozen letters this month, only two of which have appeared. Letters relative to Dr. Lehman's death were forwarded in such a way as to afford you the earliest intelligence, but as yet I have seen nothing of them.*

*I now send you an account of a reported Indian fracas, which, judging from past experience, may be read in the Dead Letter Office. Mr. Reed, Indian Agent and Mr. Geo. Boyd arrived to-day from Milk river and report that the former, with a party of seven men, on their way to the wreck of the Amelia Poe between Forts Peck and Copelin, were attacked by three hundred Sioux Indians, resulting in the death of four men named McGregor, Tabor, Thomas and Steve. (known as the stutterer.) and the wounding of Moses Soloman. of Fort Benton, in the arm and ankle. Mr. Reed and Mr. Campbell, with the wounded man and another, made their escape to Fort Peck. Five Indians were killed and a number wounded. This is all I am able to ascertain now, but will forward further particulars when advised.*

*We regret to hear of the death of our friend, W. L. Bullard, for his genial face was always welcome in Benton and we had begun to look upon him as one of our institutions in the freighting business.*

*The river is not frozen yet. Snowing fast, but weather mild. Yours Truly Corporal*

Second story in a Helena paper no date recorded:

**INDIAN MASSACRE      Dec.29,1868**

***The Wreck of Amelia Poe***

***Horrible Outrages at Fort Peck.***

*Through the kindness and courtesy of Mr. R. T. Gilesple, the efficient and universally popular representative of Wells, Fargo & Co. at Helena, M. T. , We are able to lay before our readers this morning the details of a horrible affair, which we give below:*

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*Fort Benton, M. T. Dec. 29, 1868*

*The coach is just in at 6:30 P. M. The river is still open, and it is snowing again. A report came in the evening that four men were killed by Sioux Indians at or near the wreck of the Amelia Poe, whose names were McGregor, Thomas, a man named Steve and a Mr. Taber. Moses Solomon received several wounds. George Boyd of the N. W. Fur Co. who was stationed at Fort Browning, brought in the first intelligence. Almost immediately after the arrival of Mr. Boyd, Mr. Reed, Agent of Indian Affairs, came in from Fort Peck and confirmed the prior report. Mr. Reed was one of the party attacked. He states that a party of eight men proceeding on their way to the wreck of the Poe, when about seven miles below Fort Peck, 300 Sauntee Sioux Indians fired upon them, instantly killing those above named; the others made their escape upon horses and mules. Mr. McGregor was one of the owners of the wreck of the Amelia Poe. Tabor owned a woodyard at Taber Island. The party*

*had a team containing about \$3000 worth of provisions, all of which was captured. The Indians cut the heads off of Messrs. McGregor and Steve and carried them away. This is official and therefore authentic.*

*F. O. Roosevelt.*

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*The writer of the above letter is one of the most prominent citizen of Benton, the Agent of Wells, Fargo & Co. and proprietor of the Overland Hotel. The best house in the place and that the facts, are related by Mr. Roosevelt are reliable, is assured by the high reputation of the gentleman throughout the Territory.*

1869

**January 7, 1869,**

**Helena Weekly Herald, page 7**

**From: Dec 30, 1868 Our Benton Correspondence, Benton MT,**

*To the editors of the Herald:*

*"I now send you an account of a reported Indian fracas, which judging from the past experience may be read in the Dead Letter Office.*

*Mr. Reed, Indian Agent, and Mr. Geo. Boyd arrived today from Milk River and report that the former, with a party of seven men on there way to the wreck of the Amelia Poe, between Fort Peck and Copelin, were attacked by three hundred Sioux Indians resulting in the death of four men named McGregor, Tabor, Thomas and Steve (known as the stutterer), and the wounding o Moses Solomon of Fort Benton in the arm and ankle. Mr. Reed and Mr. Campbell, with the wounded man and another, made their escape to Fort Peck. Five Indians were killed and a number wounded. This is all I am able to ascertain now but will forward further particulars when advised."*

*"We regret to hear of the death of our friend W. L. Bullard for his genial face was always welcome in Benton, and we had begun to look upon him as one of our institutions in the freighting business. The river is not frozen yet. Snowing fast but weather mild.*

*Yours truly Corporal."*

**Note: This from a historic novel by Eric Thane, HIGH BORDER COUNTRY**

*Whiskey trade among the Indians was against the law. This ban was something of a joke in the early days of High Border history, until the '60's when authorities clamped down and made breaking of that law dangerous. Whereupon fur traders moved over*

*the high border line into Alberta to continue their way of trade. Of these traders the most notorious was Johnny Healy*

*In the early 70's Johnny Healy began his career as a whiskey-runner by buying the liquor of the sunken Missouri steamboat, the Amelia Poe. He salvaged kegs and bottles intended originally for white men and with several wagonloads headed straight north to Canada. Government authorities, getting news of the train, raced to overtake him but Johnny beat them to the line. He corralled his wagons and went out to meet his pursuers, laughing heartily in their faces. Later surveys revealed that Johnny's wagon corral lay several hundred yards within the United States, but then he was firmly entrenched in his stockaded trading post on the Belly River-a fort which he had built to protect himself and his men from Indians made drunk by his liquor. That fort became known as Fort Whoop-up.<sup>5</sup>*

1871<sup>6</sup>

Other traders followed in competition. Building Forts for the winter trading seasons.

*Fort Standoff: 1871, at junction of Belly and Waterton Rivers Built by party of men including Joseph Kipp, "Dutch Fred" Wachter, W. McLean, Mr. Jeneau and "Liver Eating" Johnson.*

*Fort Kipp:- Joe Kipp and Charles Thomas log houses forming three sides of a square and contained a cook room, living quarters, trade and store rooms. Not fortified like its neighbor Fort Whoop-up about 1870 Near junction of the Belly and Oldman Rivers.*

*Fort Slideout: a group of trading shacks on the Belly River between Forts Kipp and Standoff about 1873 at first unnamed, operated by Moses Solomon and assistant named Miller. The assistant was hauling supplies to the fort that year when he was killed by Blood Indians. When an Indian boy reported the killing to the men at the post, they buried the body and decided that, because of the incident, the Bloods would no longer trade at this post. A Dutchman at the fort suggested they had better "slide out", and thus gave the name to the post.*

*Fort Conrad. or Robbers' Roost: 1871 by I.G. Baker Company at the mouth of Bell and Oldman Rivers, three miles from Fort Kipp. Attacked the second time in spring of 1873 and burned*

*Dave Akers and "Liver-eating" Johnston.. Fort Spitze*

*H. A. Kanouse's Post On Elbow River In Calgary 1871 and three white traders from Benton*

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<sup>5</sup> It is now preserved as a historical site in Lethbridge, Alberta Canada. wea

<sup>6</sup> This section is rather unclear as to where sources have come from, so I've (DA) decided to mark the entire thing in quote format.

*Dick Berry 1872 later killed in ambush by a Blood Indian named Old Woman's Child.*

*Harry "Kamoose" Taylor and William Bond were arrested at their post Pine Coulee by Mounted Police in 1874*

Note: Insert here the report of Cypress hills June 1873

1873

**HELENA DAILY HERALD June 11, 1873 007-21C**

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Wednesday, June 11, 1873**

**Indians on the Horse Steal**

**Whites on the War Path**

**Forty Lodges Wiped out by Sixteen "Kyt Carsous."**

**Ed. Grace Shot Through the Heart, and buried at Cypress Mountain**

*Our agent, just returned from Benton, brings the particulars of a recent fight between the whites and Indians, which terminated as fatally to the latter as did the engagement of Col. Baker and troops with the Piegans three years since.*

*Some ten days ago a party of wolfers, who had been out in the Whoop-up Country during the entire past winter, encamped on the Tetont, (sp?) near Benton expecting to reach that place the next day with their packs of pelts. During the night however, some Indians stole their horses and were far out of reach when morning came. The men came to Benton, procured other horses, ammunition, etc., and ten of them left in pursuit of the thieving Indians, vowing as they started, that they would recover their property even if they had to go to the Saskatchewan for it. Each man was armed with a Henry rifle and two Smith & Wesson's large revolvers, was well mounted, and five good pack animals were taken along with the party. The trail was soon found, and the pursuers pushed forward night and day, with but short rests, until they arrived at a small trading post at Cypress Mountain, two hundred miles within the British border. Here they found encamped forty lodges of North Assiniboines, who met the whites with bows strung and guns cocked, saying that they knew the whites were after a fight with the Indians who had stolen their horses; that the Crees had stolen them and only left their camp the day before; but that the Crees were the Assiniboines friends, and the whites might have what fight they desired right there. The whites took shelter within the trading post, which contained half a dozen white traders. From these they were also told that the stolen horses had passed the day previous, that the Assiniboines were aiding the Crees, and had fired several shots into the post. It was determined to attack this encampment of Assiniboines, and to do it on the Indian plan. Accordingly, at the first break of day the next morning, the sixteen or seventeen whites attacked and*

*effectually wiped out the forty lodges, very few escaping. Only one white man was killed, and he was shot through the heart by a wounded Indian whom he pursued into the brush. The name of the man killed is Ed. Grace, a man well known by the people of Helena and Prickly Pear Valley, and in many other parts of Montana. The remains of Grace were buried in the rear room of the post, and the building, after removing the contents was burned to the ground. Two of the men loaded two wagons with robes and furs and started for Benson, while the others started north on the trail of the Crees. The two men reached Benton on Saturday last, from whom statements these particulars were gleaned. Another and desperate fight has doubtless taken place here, this between a band of determined frontiersmen and the Crees, the particulars of which are promised as soon as they reach Benton.*

1873

**HILL COUNTY DEMOCRAT**

**August 20, 1926**

**THE CYPRESS HILLS MASSACRE**

***The Late Colonel James. T Stanford Was Clerk at Helena Investigation of the Crime***

***(by Dan R. Conway)***

*Many lives have entered into the foundations of Montana and none of them is more worthy to be considered in the history of Colonel James T. Stanford, of Great Falls. Those who have come and enjoyed the splendid prosperity of the later era, however important their contribution, have all owed a great debt to the pioneers who tested the ability of the Treasure state's natural resources, who faced the hardships of existence when only the strong and the brave could remain, and who laid the foundation of a sound civilization and a permanent prosperity.*

*It was the life accomplishment of the late Colonel Stanford to gain a foremost position in business enterprise in Northern Montana. He was one of the settlers in the domain of the Piegans when these tribesman and military posts and trading establishments were by far the more important industrial and commercial features of the Upper Missouri country. He was trained in that pioneer school and from the crudities of early-day Montana, as the country expanded attained a demanding position among Treasure state citizenry.*

*In the spring of 1875, but a few months following the original organization of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, a recruit was sent westward with 21 bundles of uniforms and other supplies from Ottawa, for use of the hard-pressed "Mounties". This youth was James T. Stanford, then 19 years of age. A native of Nova Scotia, Canada, the boy hearing much of the north west and craving adventure, had contracted his services to his government, to serve in that new country as yet, to a great extent unexplored and thronging with "Unimagined terrors, haunted glooms and shadowy horrors of an unknown world, Wild as primeval chaos."*

*The story of the Royal Mounted Police and Colonel Stanford's experiences as a member of that law-enforcement body, have often been told; but the recent passing of this noted pioneer recalls many strikingly interesting narratives which he told in his more loquacious moment.*

*Coming to the Northwest, as he did, in the turbulent seventies, and being a member of one of the most striking military organizations. the West has ever known, The Colonel saw much of real adventure and was witness to many incidents which have found an important place on the pages of Montana history.*

### ***That Cypress Hills Affair***

*Most old-timers who were in the territory of Montana in the early seventies, are still able to recall the Cypress Hills Massacre, declared by witnesses to be one of the bloodiest and most revolting crimes against the red man in the annals of the West, and an occurrence which caused an almost strained feeling between the Canadian Government, within whose domain the incident happened, and the Montana Territorial government. Colonel Stanford was a member of the Canadian delegation sent to the extradition hearing ----- as told to friends several years ago, constitutes an interesting historical narrative.*

1874

From The Journal of Fort Belknap 1873-1875 Written by ? ----- (Government Indian Agent).

He gives a daily report on coming and going of people stopping at the agency and of the various Indian tribes in the area and rations given to them.

*Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup>*

*Windy day Brought up the cattle fed and watered them. A man by the name of Solomon and White Eagle and another GrosVentre, came in from above. The day properly observed, a few Assiniboins came in.*

*Monday February 16*

*Pleasant day Hauled wood, Cut wood, Brought up the cattle fed them. Moses Solomon left for Benton. White Eagle "Grosventre and son left for camp. Assiniboins preparing to run buffalo tomorrow.*

*Thursday February 19<sup>th</sup>*

*Windy day. Issued to the Grosventres, Dixie and his party with Major Alderson's teams arrived form Fort Peck. Joseph Butcher returned from looking after the lost horses without success. Moses Solomon also arrive with horses from Benton. Issued to 7 Assiniboins tickets also. P M heavy wind storm.*

*Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup>*

*Day pleasant Mr. O'Hanlon arrived from Benton brought the mail. A few Indians came in to trade and beg. Attended to general routine of duties. Moses Solomon and Johnson returned to Benton; One lodge of Assiniboines Left for the camp on the forks.*

*Friday March 6th 1874*

*Day pleasant hauled wood from the forks. a few Assinibones came in; Camp will move over on this side tomorrow. P M hauled water Cut wood. Moses Solomon arrived with 17 head of horses.*

*Saturday March 7th 1874*

*Day cold, hauled wood, cut wood, hauled water a few Assiniboines came in to get out some of their meat. Solomon still here. Assiniboine camp did not move.*

*Monday March 9<sup>th</sup>*

*Day cold, cut wood. Lieut. Bradley and escort left for Benton. Half breeds who have been stopping with the trader for several days, left with 17 head of horses for Mr. Janna Fort on Frenchman's Creek.*

*Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup>*

*Day cold, hauled wood and water, cut wood, Moses Solomon left for Benton. Thomas Campbell interpreter for store went to Gros Ventre camp Gros Ventres to within four miles of Tom Powers fort, a few Assiniboines came in to visit the trader.*

1875

*Paper ?*

*Feb. 13 or 15 ? 1875*

#### ***Particulars of the Shooting Scrape at Benton***

*The particulars of the shooting of Moses Solomon by Jeff Perkins at Benton, on the night of the 12th inst., are thus given in the Benton Record.*

*Mr. Moses Solomon, in company with Jeff Perkins, proceeded to the saloon of the latter to take a drink. All the other saloons were closed at the time and the folks abed. Perkins placed a bottle and some tumblers on the counter, reached under the counter, presented a revolver, and without a word, fired at Solomon, the bullet striking him in the right breast, passing through his body and lodging in the wall of the saloon, about twelve or fifteen feet distance. Solomon retreated and endeavored to reach the door, and had his hand on the knob, when Perkins again fired, the ball striking Solomon in the hand. In the attempt to open the door, Perkins fired another shot, which luckily did not take effect. By this time the people were aroused, and Judge Mills, Mr. Conway and Mr. Tillman came to the rescue of Solomon. Mr. Tillman knocked Perkins down and wrenched the revolver from him. But for this interference, Perkins would undoubtedly have completed his work. Solomon was carried to his own house, and is now under the treatment of Dr. W. E Turner, U S A*

*"This morning (February 13th) Perkins, in custody of Sheriff Hale, appeared before Judge Mills on examination of a charge of shooting and wounding with intent to kill Moses Solomon. Mr. J A Kanouse appeared in behalf of the people. Owing to the dangerous state of Solomon the court adjourned to take his deposition.*



*“On reassembling the court decided, on the waiver of examination made by the prisoner in the morning: That he be committed to prison to await examination before the District Court at Helena”*

**THE DAILY RIVER PRESS Tuesday, Aug. 28, 1900**

***An Early Day Reminiscence***

*A recent issue of the Anaconda Standard contains a very good portrait of Judge Tattan, of this city, accompanied by an interesting biographical sketch. A portion of the latter relates to an early day incident that was published by the River Press some years ago, but is good enough to be reproduced:*

*“Judge Tattan's first case in Benton was in the spring of 1875. A discharged soldier had skipped the town owing a bill to Moses Solomon for goods and merchandise sold to him at his own request (Moses then kept a saloon where the Pacific Hotel now stands). The sheriff went out, brought the man back and he was tried before Probate Bob Mills. Mr. Tattan was assigned for the defense. He asked the judge to order the books of the saloon to be brought into court, which was done, Uncle Jimmy Douglas, who was in charge of the place during the temporary absence of Mose, bringing them. When the entries were read aloud, it was shown that the charges were for various drinks, and Mr. Tattan took the ground that in selling liquor to a soldier, Moses had violated certain sections of the United States revised statutes, and he wished to know why Mose should not be arrested and sent before the United States Grand Jury. This was a phase in the case which was not anticipated at all. The case against the soldier was not pressed further and he was allowed to go. It is probable, however, Mose would have been sent to Helena, but a short time after he was shot through the lungs by Jeff Perkins and lay in the government hospital, which was where the Grand Union Hotel now stands. For a long time his life was despaired of, but a strong constitution brought him through alright. The case against him was dropped. Jeff Perkins was tried, convicted and served a term in the penitentiary.”*

**HILL COUNTY DEMOCRAT August 20, 1926**

***THE CYPRESS HILLS MASSACRE***

*The Late Colonel James. T Stanford Was Clerk at Helena Investigation of the Crime*

*(by Dan R. Conway)*

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**Montana Historical Society  
Accession # 48566**

*Other settlers came into the region by the steamboat route to Fort Benton. In the town on site of the fort, several Jews were in business. In the general vicinity of the fort, one settler deserves extended attention because of his uniqueness.*

*He was Moses Solomon, early settler and Indian fighter. He settled beside the Marias River below Fort Benton about 1864. There he was a fur trader, apparently well-known in the whole vicinity. The battle with the Sioux Indians, in which he took part, occurred early in his career. In December 1868, Solomon was one of a small group of men who were sent to salvage what could be saved from the wreck of a vessel which had foundered in the Missouri river. They were waylaid by a band of Souix and a battle ensued in which Solomon was wounded in the ankle. The following account gives us the vivid details of the incident:*

*“To return to the party under Major Reed. (Indian Agent). All the rest of the fellows went with the Major. Moses Solomon and Jimmie Dwyer were there also.*

*They went down to Peck first, then started to the wreck (Of the Amelia Poe), and when about 10 miles from that post noticed some Indians in the hills. Some thought them Assiniboines. Tom Campbell did not like their action as he knew Indians pretty well. The boys continued on their way however, and as they were going over the hills they noticed some Indians on both sides. They were not molested, but allowed to come down from the hills into the trap the Indians had set for them. The party proved to be Santee Souix who were hunting elk. Just as soon as they got in the bottom the Indians closed in on them and they tried to withdraw, but the Indians kept going, and they began to run with their four horse teams in order to make their getaway, but the Indians were running on both sides of the teams and soon began to fire on them. They shot one of the leaders in Mose Solomon's team. Mose then cut his other horse loose from the wagon and the boys jumped off and ran for a cut bank that was close by. They jumped over the bank and into the willows, but before they got there they killed McGregor, John Thomas, Steve Tabor and Montgomery. In the meantime, Mose and Jim Dwyer had jumped on a mule and started to get away, with the Indians after them. They shot Mose in one foot and one bullet passed between them without injury. The other fellows were held in the willows...Billie Smith killed one of the most noted Indians in the Souix nation in that fight. The boys were held in the brush till night, when they abandoned their wagons and walked back to Peck. Tom Campbell escaped on a big black horse that belonged to me and brought the news to Peck.”*

Most of the time during which Moses Solomon resided in Montana, he lived along the Missouri River near or below Fort Benton. He is mentioned in the *Fort Belknap Journal*, published at Fort Belknap, a trading post and Indian Agency near the present town of Chinook. The Journal reports in an item dated February 2, 1874: “Moses Solomon arrived from Benton with 17 head of horses.” It is clear that Solomon went back and forth from Fort Benton to Fort Belknap, and that he dealt in livestock.

In an unfortunate quarrel, Solomon was shot by a drinking companion. There is no way to learn the cause of the disagreement, but the whole incident is described in great detail in contemporary newspaper accounts. Under date of February 15, 1875, the *Benton Record* reports:

*“Our usually quiet and peaceful burgh was, on the night of the 12th inst. Disturbed in its serenity through an attempt to murder. The stillness of the night was broken by the yells of a human being in the agonies of death. One, two, three shots were fired, and a fellow citizen had fallen by the hand of an assassin... We are glad to see that the authorities have taken prompt action in the matter. We have only one side of the case as yet, but from all we can learn, the facts are as follows: Mr. Moses Solomon, in company with Mr. Jeff Perkins, proceeded to the saloon of the latter to take a drink. All the other saloons were closed at the time and the folks abed. Perkins placed a bottle and some tumblers on the counter, reached under the counter, presented a revolver, and without a word fired at Solomon, the bullet striking him in the right breast, passed through his body and lodged in the wall of the saloon about 12 or 15 feet distant. Solomon retreated and endeavored to reach the door, and had his hand on the knob when Perkins again fired, the ball striking Solomon in the hand. In the attempt to open the door, Perkins fired another shot, which luckily did not take effect. By this time, people were aroused, and Judge Mills, Mr Conroy and Mr. Tillman knocked Perkins down and took the revolver from him. But for this interference, Perkins would undoubtedly have completed his work. Solomon was carried to his own house, and is now under treatment by Dr. W. E. Turner, U. S. A. This morning (Feb. 13), Perkins, in custody of Sheriff Hale, appeared before Judge Mills on examination of shooting and wounding with intent to kill, Moses Solomon. Mr. J. A. Converse appeared on behalf of the people. During the dangerous state of Solomon, the court adjourned to take his deposition. On assembling, the Court decided, on the waiver of examination made by the prisoner in the morning: That he be committed to prison to await examination before the District Court at Helena.”*

Two weeks later the same newspaper reported:

*“Mr. Moses Solomon, who was dangerously wounded in an altercation with J. Perkins, is doing as well as can be expected in the circumstances. Hopes for his recovery are entertained.”*

Solomon recovered and his attacker was sent to the penitentiary. He remained in his old haunts after the incident, and retained his status in the section. In his later years Solomon was popular enough for a newspaper to devote space to a description of his character and importance. He is praised as a pioneer:

*“Mose Solomon, a well known old timer of Choteau County, has been in the city for the past few weeks, meeting old friends and looking over the country he has not visited for over twenty years. Mose Solomon is a veritable walking encyclopedia of the early history of Northern Montana, and here is not a man more widely or favorably known by all the old timers.*

*Mose is now hale and hearty at 72 years of age, and has been “up against the real thing,” as evidenced by nine separate gunshot wounds that have left their impressions on his person. One shot was through his lungs, but Mose is none the worse for it, as our townsman W. T. McFarland sat on the jury in Helena many years ago that sent the perpetrator of the murderous assault to the penitentiary for ten years. Mose has*

*figured in many Indian encounters since he located on the Marias River below Ft. Benton since 1864 – all the way from Ft. Benton to Ft. Peck, and from the Cypress Hill (Canada) to the Missouri River. Mose has been overtaken by modern civilization as he crosses now the great Judith Basin through barbed wire lands and growing fields where he used to hunt buffalo and trade with the Indians, and the Benton cut-off of the Great Northern spans the Marias in front of his house and the traffic of a great railway continually rumbles at his door.”*

Now that the tumultuous times were over, the newspaper in a reminiscent spirit, saw in Moses Solomon the man of the early days of Montana, living a more primitive and difficult life, close to the buffalo hunt and the Indian fight. He was evidently something of a character, a person to be picked out of the crowd.

Although his name was Moses Solomon and he was born in Poland, the picture of him contains no hint of any characteristics that are customarily called Jewish. Had he grown up in Poland and received the typical Jewish education there, he certainly would not have been the person he became. All this speaks volumes for the power of the environment, and controverts glittering generalizations and false clichés.

Moses Solomon died in Kendall, Montana in August, 1903 at the age of seventy-eight. His daughter and son-in-law were with him to the end. The funeral took place from Union Hall. Mr. E. H. Campbell delivered the eulogy:

*“Mose Solomon was one of the adventurous spirits who blazed the trail, subdued the savage, and made it possible for the less courageous to settle in safety and build up this great Commonwealth. In the upbuilding of this Nation, such men have played a much more necessary part than many whose names are inscribed high in the roll of honor. But the names of the Solomons, Ferguses and Stuarts will linger like that (sic) of the Boones and Kentons, long after the fame of political heroes are gone and forgotten. Mose Solomon might be called by some a Godless man, but he lived a life that you and I are living. He believed in the brotherhood of man. He tried to live up to the precepts of the Golden Rule – do unto others as you would have others do unto you. The earth was his mother and the people thereof his kindred. He was born in Poland 78 years ago. He first came to New York, from there to California by way of the Isthmus. Discovery of Gold in Alder Gulch, Last Chance, Confederate lured him on, He was always doing, always daring. The transition from the excitement of the mining camp to the wild free life of the plain was but natural. Brave must he be who emerges from frontier life with shield untarnished No one has ever charged our old friend with showing the pallid flag of fear. Brave, gentle, courteous – these were his characteristics.*

*Nature in life as well as in death seems to furnish an appropriate setting. What could be more fitting that that this rugged old pioneer should find his final resting place amid the rugged grandeur of these eternal hills? -- on the grassy slope, amid scenes so familiar. Let him sleep the sleep that knows no waking.”*

Those immigrants who left Europe were the most venturesome, the most individualistic. Among the immigrants the group that left the East and went to California were probably selected for spirit and ambition. And those who came to Montana were among the bravest of these. In a sense, Solomon

seems to have been the quintessential pioneer. He could not sink into the humdrum life of the town, but remained the frontiersman to the end.

1887<sup>7</sup>

**Wednesday May 11, 1887**

RIVER PRESS

FORT BENTON, MONTANA

page 5 Local Notes

**HE TOOK EVERYTHING BUT THE HOUSE AND THE RANCH**

*Last Friday Moses Solomon of the Marias came to town on business. Leaving his Wayside Inn and appurtenances in charge of an employee named Herbert Miller. During Mr. Solomon's absence Miller literally cleaned out the house of every moveable article of value. Which consisted of bar fixtures and stock, bedding, gun, provisions, cooking utensils and so forth. He put the goods aboard Mr. Solomon's six seated sail boat and sailed away down the raw Missouri destined it is supposed to the coming new town of Manitoba where the railroad first strikes the river. Solomon returned home that evening discovered his loss. He immediately informed Sheriff Black, who telegraphed parties at Rocky Point ordering the arrest of Miller on his arrival there. Yesterday morning Sheriff Black received notice from Riehle at that place that Miller had been arrested at that place and would be held to await his orders. This morning Sol Yates started to Rocky Point to bring the prisoner to Benton.*

**Wednesday May 25, 1887**

*River Press, Vol. VII, Under notes*

*District Court of Fort Benton*

*"Herbert Mellen, the man who cleaned Mose Solomon's ranch out and stole his sail boat, by the advice of his attorney pleaded guilty this afternoon and threw himself on the mercy of the court. The court did not seem to find any extenuating circumstances connected with Mellon's case and immediately sentenced him to ten years in the territorial prison. Mellon's lawyers will endeavor to obtain a modification of the*

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<sup>7</sup> Notes say : Fort Benton River Press 1887, 1888

Copied from Mom's spiral notebook by Joan 7/2/17 and moved to master file except for items below:

River Press 1887 (Fort Benton)

January 5, vol 7, no11

December 28, vol. 8, no.10

Copy May 11, 1887 ...5/2

OTHER NOTES

Chief Lame Bull a Gros Ventre Indian and a lot of his people are in town.

Visit St. Peters Mission near Fort Shaw – where children are in school

??? Aug 24 1887

*sentience by presenting facts in the case of which they claim the court was not fully advised."*

**Wednesday June 15 1887**

*River Press, (Fort Benton), Under Local Notes Daily Page 6, column 1*

*"Mr. Sol Yates who went to Rocky Point in the capacity of deputy sheriff to bring back the prisoner Herbert Mellen (instead of Miller, as we had previously been told was his name), returned with this man last night. The boat and goods stolen from Solomon were recovered and will be brought up on the Rosebud. Mr. Yates says that Mellen seems to be a very bright and intelligent young man who had been well raised. It is a pity that he should have so far forgotten his training as to be guilty of the act charged to him. Mellen had a preliminary hearing this morning before Judge Crane, and was bound over to await the action of the grand jury. The county clerk then submitted the following vouchers for warrants issued to jurors and witnesses in attendance at the district court; and the board having compared them with the warrants stubs found them correct: Moses Solomon witness before grand jury \$9.60."*

**Wednesday June 22, 1887**

*River Press, (Fort Benton), Local Notes from Saturday Daily,*

*"Moses Solomon is having hard luck. After having all his personal effects stolen and boated off in his own sail boat this spring and having been put to a great deal of expense and trouble getting them back, and sending the bad man who stole them to the penitentiary, his cup of bitterness was not yet full. Only a few days ago he tied that same boat to the bank of the river near his home. In the morning he found that that rushing waters of the Marias had cut the ban and it had caved on the boat, wrecked it, and the remains had floated off down into (the) rolling Missouri."*

*"And still his tribulations did not end here. He is now playing Robinson Crusoe on a little island of his own, without his man Friday, who is in the territorial "jug" across the range, and with no boat to go fishin' or catch drift wood. The old adage about misfortune coming in large families is exemplified in Mose's case."*

Editor's note: the Missouri river had risen 8" in 12 hours

**Wednesday July 27, 1887**

*River Press, (Fort Benton), Vol. VII*

*The Marias Saloon Men*

*"The case of the territory VS Andrew Neilson, for establishing and maintaining a saloon within two miles of the line of construction of a railroad, vis: at the crossing of the Marias river resulted in a verdict of guilty. The defendant admitted the facts alleged in the complaint and of course only a verdict of guilty could be rendered. He was fined \$20 with the trimmings, which amounted all told to about \$80.*

*“Henry Hetu pleaded guilty to the same charge and was given the lightest fine under the law. On Saturday evening sheriff Black arrested J.F. Taylor and Moses Solomon, both of the Marias, for violation of the ban in regard to the establishing and maintaining of saloons within two miles of the line of construction of a railroad. Mr. Taylor pleaded guilty in probate court this morning and received the minimum fine \$20 with costs.*

*“Mose Solomon will stand trial and the hearing in his case has been postponed until 10’O clock Thursday morning. Mr. Solomon has been located at the crossing of the Marias almost since the river commenced to run, and it seems too bad that he should be disturbed in the pursuit of a business he has been long engaged in. However, no fault can be found with its officers. This is one of the laws of the land.*

*“The enforcement of which was urged by Judge McConnell in his charge to its grand jury the constitutionality of the act is questioned by some but the sheriff or probate judge is not supposed to pass upon that question. So far as they are concerned the law is as binding as any other in the statute book until it is declared otherwise by the highest courts.”*

**Wednesday August 3, 1887**

*River Press, (Fort Benton), Local News, near bottom page*

*“Moses Solomon who was arraigned under the new law prohibiting the sale of liquor along the line of a railroad under construction pleaded guilty in the probate court today and the sentence in this case was suspended.”*

**Monday’ Daily August 31, 1887**

*River Press, (Fort Benton), page 5 column 1*

*“We regret to learn that Moses Salomon’s barn, haystacks and chicken house were destroyed by fire Saturday last. The fire was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary who is already spotted by the officers, and the case will no doubt be brought to the grand jury for an investigation. Marshall Finnigan went down to the scene as soon as the news reached town, but has nothing to communicate yet.*

[Winnie says: add cheese story here.](#)  
[New Years Break](#)

1888

**February 8,1888**

*River Press, (Fort Benton),*

*“Mr. Mose Solomon is in today from the Marias and informs us that the bridge across that stream is a total wreck, nothing remaining in the center of the stream.*



*Over the Teton, however the iron and cross ties are suspended in the air.”*

*“During the breakup of the Marias river a man employed by Mr. Dawson, the boss carpenter, attempted to cross on foot before the bridge went entirely out, but the force of the ice striking against the bridge timbers shook him off into the river beneath, and had it n been for great presence of mind and a bold determination he would have drowned. He saved himself by jumping from one large block of ice to another, occasionally going under until he reached the shore.”*

*“Mr. Burke the roadmaster, coming from Fort Assiniboine on his bicycle, and not knowing the condition of the bridge, also undertook to cross, and was thrown from the bicycle into the river having a very narrow escape.”*

*“Mr. Solomon also tells us that he was all ready to put in ice and that the break in the river has assisted him very much, having deposited a sufficient quantity within easy reach of his ice house door. Mose says he thinks the river would have floated the ice in and packed it away for him if he had just thought to have left the door open.”*

**Wednesday March 14, 1888**

*River Press, (Fort Benton),*

*“Mose Solomon is beaming on his Benton friends today. He informs us that the new railroad bridge across the Marias is now completed and a force of 30 men are now working on Teton bridge.”*

**Wednesday June 20, 1888**

*River Press, (Fort Benton), page 2, Local Notes*

*“Mose Solomon has lately arrived from the new town of Cypress near Assinniboine, where he has an establishment and says he is doing well there.”*

*“The place is growing rapidly and promises to be quite a town at short notice. He states that many settlers are coming from the line of the Canadian Pacific railway across the British line. The Canadians claim they can no longer live in a country controlled by such a corporation as the Canadian Pacific. Freight tariffs by rail are excessive – entirely out of reason, while men who have teams are asked to haul goods 200 mile north of the road for the pitiful allowance of 40¢ per hundred pounds. Rather than live in such a country they are leaving it and coming to a country where there is a navigable river and low freight rates both by rail and river.”*

**November 7, 1888**

*River Press, (Fort Benton),*

*“Mr. Moses Solomon, of the Marias, near Fort Benton, is becoming quite a farmer. This year he raised such a large crop of corn that he has ordered a corn sheller with which to handle it.*

*He expects to use it in feeding his hogs for market and also in carrying his large yard of poultry through a successful winter laying season. Mr. Solomon expresses himself as greatly surprised at the yield of corn per acre and the size of the ears. He says that with proper cultivation, the same as given a corn crop in the states, the valleys of Montana can be made to produce as much and as good corn as can be found in any country.”*

*December 26, 1888*

*River Press, (Fort Benton),*

*“Mose Solomon of the Marias, was in town yesterday taking a look at Fort Benton’s new bridge and other public improvements. He seemed especially and deeply interested in the electric plant. During the evening he took a River Press reporter by the button hole, hauled him off to one side and propounded a scientifically philosophical interrogatory that knocked him completely out of time. Said Mose: “You know I’ve got the finest collection of egg-producing hens I the country. I raised several hundred bushels of corn this year and am feeding them high. They lay one egg apiece every day. Don’t you think if I was to get one of those electric lights and hang in the 100 foot long by 40 foot wide poultry house, I’d fool ‘em? They’d think the sun was shining at midnight, and lay two eggs a day instead of one.”*

*The reporter acknowledged he had not given the subject sufficient attention to venture a definite reply.”*

[Dec 1888 – write about the discovery of electricity here.](#)

1900

***River Press ?                      December 2, 1900***

*Mose Solomon left yesterday for Arkansas Hot Springs, where he will spend most of the winter recruiting his health. This Mose’s first holiday since he first struck the Cariboo gold fields in 1852, and he is prepared to enjoy it to the utmost.*

1902

***Kendall Chronicle:    December 31, 1902***

*Moses Solomon, a well known pioneer of Montana, and who has been in the retail liquor business in Kendall since the camp started, left Wednesday on an extended pleasure trip in the south and east. He will visit with his daughter at Fort Benton, Montana, enjoy the health giving baths at Hot Springs, Ark., and recall reminiscences*

*of his boyhood days with a sister in Chicago, Ill. Mr. Solomon will not return until March.*

1906

*THE KENDALL MINER*

*August 31, 1906*

***TRIBUTE TO HIS MEMORY***

*MOSE SALOMON died at the Miners, union hospital on Monday evening at 7 o'clock from complication of diseases.*

*Death was not unexpected and Mr. Salomon's son-in-law, Z. M. Larsen, was with him at the last.*

*The funeral took place on Wednesday from the union hall at 2 p.m. and a large number of friends of the deceased gathered to pay their last respects to their departed friend. The K. P. band rendered selections appropriate to the occasion. The choir, composed of Madams Beck and Jackson, Miss Sitcker and Messrs. Hayden and Charles and Ron Manhire, sang. E. H. Campbell paid an eloquent and touching tribute to the character of the deceased. Mr. Campbell said in part.*

*"Mose Solomon was one of those adventurous spirits who blazed the trail, subdued the savages, and made it possible for the less courageous to settle in safety and build up this great commonwealth. In the up-building of this nation such men have played a much more necessary part than many who's names are inscribed high in the roll of honor. But the names of the Solomon, Ferguses, and Stuarts will linger like that of the Boons and Kentons long after the ephemeral fame of political heroes are gone and forgotten.*

*Mose Solomon might be called by some a Godless man, but he lived the life that you and I are living. He believed in the brotherhood of man. He tried to live up to the precepts of the Golden Rule--Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. The earth was his mother and the people thereof his kindred.*

*The Deceased was born in Poland 78 years ago. [ed. error born in Germany] He first came to New York and from there he went to California by way of the Isthmus. From San Francisco he went to Walla Walla. The discovery of gold in Alder, Last Chance and Confederate lured him onward. Always doing, always daring. The transition from the excitement of the mining camp to the wild free life of the plain was but natural. Brave he must be who emerges from frontier life with shield untarnished. No one has ever charged our old friend with showing the pallid flag of fear. Brave, gentle, courteous--these were his characteristics.*

*Nature in life as well as in death seems to furnish an appropriate setting. What could be more fitting than that this rugged old pioneer should find his final resting place amidst the rugged grandeur of these eternal hills? Out on the grassy slope, looking out on scenes familiar, Let him sleep the sleep that knows no waking.*

## FORT BENTON

*Declared the birth place of Montana and the longest continuously populated place in the state.*

The settling of white people on Indian land in Montana Territory did not come about as a easy or peaceful transition. Some historians blame the killing of two Blackfeet by Lewis, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1806, as the cause for the extreme animosity the Blackfeet had for white men. It took 25 years for the first white settlement to begin near the same spot where Lewis and Clark camped for ten days while determined which muddy river was the Missouri.

Kenneth McKenzie, who was chief factor working for the American Fur Company at Fort Union, sent James Kipp, with a crew of men up river from Fort Union to build a trading post and make peace with the Piegans, a branch of the Blackfeet. James Kipp had been a long-time trader and architect of most of their trading posts. His peaceful success in the first year brought down 6500 beaver pelts worth about \$4600. When another branch of Blackfeet, the Bloods, moved in the area a great deal of fighting between the Bloods and Piegans took place near the post. None of the men were willing to stay in the off-trading season, so they all returned with the furs in keelboats in spring and the abandoned post was burned down by Indians in their absence. In succeeding years other posts were built nearby. Fort McKenzie above present-day Benton lasted from 1832 to 1844. Fort Lewis first built on the south side of the Missouri was in business from 1845 to 1847 then dismantled and rebuilt on north side of the river at the request of the Indians. This fort was renamed fort Benton on December 25, 1850 to make it the only fort of regular occupancy to modern days.

In 1853 the Territory of Washington which included present Western Montana and Idaho was created. The remainder of Montana was Indian country and was included in Nebraska Territory. A direct water route and a possible rail road route from the Mississippi to the Pacific coast was still in National plans. The building of a Military road by Lt. John Mullan from old Fort Walla Walla to Fort Benton opened the way for the gold miners to flock into Montana. All trails led to and from Fort Benton and became a supply center for the gold miners, the fur traders, the military and the Indian agencies.

In his book, Fort Benton The Worlds Innermost Port, Joel Overholser called Fort Benton “the most isolated transportation center in the west. As it was more than 3,000 river miles to salt water. Since 1835 Steamboats had been going up to the trading posts along the Missouri River and as far north as Fort Union in Dakota Territory where the Yellowstone River converges with the Missouri. In 1859 the Chippewa was the first to navigate westward inland so far as Fort Benton.

Montana became a Territory in 1864, and that was the first year I was able to pick up Moses Solomon’s paper trail since he was last listed in the Sacramento city directory in 1855. I have no clue about what he was doing during those nine years, but is probably safe to say he came from California to Montana with or following the miners. As his obituary mentions that he was at the gold mines at Walla Walla, Alder Gulch, and Last Chance during the early years of their discovery. If he didn’t take part in mining himself

he might have been in a partnership with others, or grub-staked someone, or perhaps he was a supplier of trade goods. I have read that in 1864, beside the adobe Fort at Fort Benton, there was a store run by Conrad and Steel, a blacksmith shop and six saloons. Moses claimed to have built the first one called Solomon's Medicine Lodge.

Fort Benton was just a budding town in 1864. It might have had a winter population near 100. As all roads and trails lead to or from Fort Benton, but during the shipping season it probably had the look of an encampment, busy all the time dirt roads, muddy or dusty according to the weather. Noisy, full of animals, horses donkeys and bull trains which left their horse apples and cow pies to be stepped around,. Drivers shouting at their horses. Wagon trains coming and going with trade goods and people waiting for ships to come up or go down river. Indians camped near by to trade at the post or receive their annuities.

That Moses was in Fort Benton is confirmed in three different memoirs written by men who witnessed the crazy incident that happened in Fort Benton that year. In this tale Moses and several other town men jumped over the bank into the Missouri River to avoid getting hit by cannon fire. This incident, titled by one author, "Montana Fun" began with the intention to impress the Indians on how much damage a small cannon could do.

PUT STORY HERE? yes

## OPHIR (O'far) A proposed township or Port city

I

Many things seemed to be happening in Montana Territory in 1864. This story about the building of the city of Ophir didn't concern Moses Solomon at that time, but some years later he took over a two room cabin there made from logs cut for the Ophir project in 1865. He is credited as being the third pioneer to spend many years in the Loma area, and in 1893 my mother was born in this cabin, on what would have been the Ophir town site. It was In those days there were no legal documents establishing ownership of land. You squatted on the land, which meant; you occupied it. Later you could file for a patent. Moses got his patent in 1900 and sold some of his land to the Rail Road Co. and part to Ed Chappell

The area intended to be called Ophir remained unnamed for fifty one years. Known at first by local people as Solomon's place until 1890 . Then unofficially as Chappell and later as Lower Marias with too many letters for the dot dash system, and shortened by telegraphers to four letters in 1916 when they named it Loma.

II

This is what happened, taken in part from *HISTORY OF LOMA, MONTANA*, (once called CHAPPELL) Compiled by James (Jim) Wood.

Mr. Wood, I believe is a descendent of the Edward Chappell family. The Ed. Chappell children, John, Sarah, Edward, Richard, May, and Nellie were my mother's friends. They attended school together. Ed. Chappell bought Moses Solomon's Place in 1900. and his descendants still live in Loma.

This is the way he tells about the ill fated Ophir project.

*In July of 1864 Captain James Moore, of the steamboat CUTTER, was forced to put in at the mouth of the Marias because of machinery problems. As it was late in the season he tied up for the winter to wait for repairs. While there, he explored the area and decided this would be an ideal spot for a city. Being 25 miles by river below Fort Benton, and with the possibility of extending boat travel up the Marias and Teton Rivers, it would be likely that much of the river traffic could be captured. The Ophir site would also allow a longer shipping season, since the river below Ophir was navigable longer in the year than the river above. Captain Moore made some drawings of the area, turned the boat over to his engineer, and took off for the gold camps at Virginia City, to see if he could create some interest in such a venture. He was very successful and raised a considerable amount of capital. He even sold some lots in the proposed city. Then organized a company and started selling stock. On February 2, 1865 the company secured a charters for the Ophir Town Company from the Bannack Legislature. This would establish Ophir as the center of transportation and commerce in this part of Montana. Business men in Fort Benton, upon learning of the plans made*

*In July of 1864 the steamship Cutter broke down at the mouth of the Marias (a mile or so from where Louis and Clark camped in 1805) and the ship Captain, James Moore, had to stay with his ship waiting for repair parts to come up from St. Louis next spring. While waiting the Captain James Moore looked over the area and found it to be a great place for a port town 25 river miles down from Fort Benton easier for ships when low water cut the shipping seasons short. He made sketches and took his plan to the miners in Virginia city where the miners were eager to invest, and he raise money and sold some lots. He obtained charters and began building. By May of 1865 he had a warehouse, a sawmill and several buildings. One evening after supper he took nine men up stream to float downriver the 300 logs that had been cut for houses. After they had been gone a while gun shots were heard by men still in camp. All ten were killed.*

### III

Men Moses Solomon knew

Henry Kennerly Was a clerk in the Washington, D. C., Indian office When Col. Alfred Cummings , designated by President Pierce to head the council held by Isaac Stevens In Fort Benton , invited Kennerly to go along as one of the clerks. (add here HK bio,) They left via the American Fur steamboat St. Mary from St. Louis June 6, 1855 Pick up from pg. 24 Overholser

*From document 8.1\_M.S. Friends*

Moses Solomon's acquaintances who went down the Missouri River with him in 1866 L-R standing Moses Solomon, Bob Mills, and John Largent. Sitting L-R Joe Kipp and Henry Kennerly

Of the four Joe Kipp had the most colorful life.

**JOHN LARGENT** (from Firewater pgs. 42-46-59-217) Overholser ( 91-309)

42 In 1868 when the NWFC received a license to build a post on Blackfeet Reservation, at Sun River, John Largent, a local merchant, became a partner of Alfred B. Hamilton, who was a nephew of I. G. Baker.

46 Hamilton teamed up with John Jerome Healy, December of 1869 to go north of the 49th parallel and among others Bob Mills and John Largent went with them. It took three weeks to reach the Belly and St Mary Rivers 160 miles north of Sun River, a favorite winter site of Blood tribe. They returned in 1870 with a \$50,000 dollar profit.

217 After the NWMP came Largent went back to Sun River

309

.....

(Firewater-34-106-168-171-202-206-213-)

( ) -18

### **HENNERLY KENNERLY**

18 Montana Territory's rough frontier mining population, combined with whisky trading, horse raiding and Indians being dispossessed of their hunting grounds, finally exploded in a series of incidents, beginning in 1865 that the local people called the "Black foot War" Hunucke and Lagris

During the winter of 1865/66

34 a flare-up occurred in mid July 1869 when two government herders were attacked and killed near Fort Benton. Three local residents, George Houk, Henry Kennerly and Peter Lukins went on a rampage of revenge. Houk stormed into the home of William Gladstone and dragged out an elderly Peigan named Heavy Charging in the Brush, and murdered him in the street. With him was a fourteen-year-old boy who was also killed.

106 Henry Kennerly and Mat Fernell became traders at Willow Rounds and at the mouth of Dryfork Creek, both on the Marias 1872

168 1873-74 Spitzee Calvary organized to force a stop the selling of repeating rifles and ammunition to Indians Henry Kennerly on Badger Creek in Montana rebuffed them. The businesses targeted by the Spizee Calvary all belonged or were owned by Tom Power. Henry Kennerly was trader for T. C. Power at Fort Maginnis on Birch Creek

206 1875 June Detective Dusold raided T. C. Power's trading post near the agency, run by Charles Aubrey , seizing 818 robes and closing the post down. Next he went to Birch Creek, where he seized all the goods of Henry Kennerly valued at some five thousand dollars, and closed him down as well. 1876 The trading post at Willow Rounds on the Blackfeet Reservation Weatherwax took charge for Wetzel owner and Henry Kennerly for T. C. Powers. In spring Weatherwax and Wetzel resumed ownership 1884 went bankrupt. No more about H. Kennerly.

From MONTANA The Magazine of Western History (Winter 82)

THE 1855 BLACKFEET TREATY COUNCIL

a memoir by Henry A. Kennerly , edited by David A. Walter

From this article I learned this about Henry Kennerly, He was born on December 2 , into a military family and was a friend of Colonel Alfred Cumming, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the central Superintendency.

*This should follow picture of the 5 men need to find date taken if possible*

HENRY KENNERLY (In picture seated on right with legs crossed)

(Information source: Montana The Magazine of Western History, winter 1982, pages 44-51

The 1855 Blackfeet Treaty Council. A memoir by Henry Kennerly edited by David A. Walter)

Henry Kennerly was the son of a military family, born on December 2, 1835 at Jefferson Barracks, near St. Louis. His Father George Hancock Kennerly was a quartermaster-general in the U.S. army and his paternal ancestors included both wives of William Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Judith Hancock, a second cousin of Henry, and Harriet Kennerly. His maternal grandfather Pierre Menard, had been an associate of Manuel Lisa and Jean Pierre Chouteau during the early days of fur trading that began in 1805 after Louis and Clark told of the abundance of animals in the land called the Louisiana purchase.

Before his death in 1913, at age 77 Henry A. Kennerly wrote a memoir of the part he played in the Blackfeet Treaty of 1855. The purpose of this treaty was to declare intertribal warfare illegal, and to restrict the Blackfeet to a more northern area, allow other western bands access to common buffalo-hunting grounds east of the mountains, and to secure passage for whites through the region.

President Pierce appointed Colonel Alfred Cumming, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, assigned to the Central Region, and Isaac I. Stevens, who was Washington Territory's Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs, to negotiate this treaty. Stevens had been at work the area since 1853 surveying a transcontinental railroad route from to Puget Sound.

Henry had received a business education in St. Louis. At age 19 he took a job as clerk in the Department of the Interior Office of Indian Affairs in Washington D. C., working for Colonel Cumming, a friend of the Kennerly family invited Kennerly to go along as his personal secretary

When plans were made for the Blackfeet Council to take place at Fort Benton in August of 1855. Cummings

Isaac one of the three superintendents to lead the council had advised Cummings not to contract a American Fur Company steam boat to transport the treaty goods from St Louis to Fort Union, but Cummings who, it has been said, was assertive and somewhat pompous in manner did anyway and caused the council to be delayed two months and the meeting place had to be changed to the Judith River where it joins the Missouri.

President Pierce, appointed him to be a

Kennerly noted on his trip up river that Omaha was a village of about 100, the same size of Fort Benton..

( Don't know when the Kennerly and the Menards came to America or from what country.)



## **Bob Mills,**

from Firewater ( 46-55-91- to-93 ) Overholser ( 240 )

Pg 46 A freighter, crossed the border in Dec 1869 With the Healy – Hamilton Traders and other men

55- went back to Benton for more whisky with Joe Wye two or three times.

91 1872 winter, Bob Mills, Fred Kanouse, Charles Rowe, Jim Nabors and George Crowe had a small trading post on Porcupine Coulee. In spring they closed the fort and using Mills Mules and wagon were returning to Fort Benton. Kanouse and Nabors quarreled and Kanouse shot Nabors

He was not arrested until the next year but discharged from custody after the NWMP

These traders got their goods and backing from the Powers Co

93 Mills Rowe freighters

240 1870 Census listed as hotelman of Overland Robert Mills, Rowe & mills issued hotel license 1871. 1874 running a popular restaurant Married Mattie, daughter of James Douglass 1877.

Named restaurant Eataphome in recognition of A Gram Bells' recent achievement. New partner in hotel R.S. Culbertson Named the Centennial Hotel

In 1881 Culberson was full owner.

## **JAMES KIPP and SON JOE KIPP**

Among the men, friends, and working partners Moses met in Montana Joe Kipp was one who had a very colorful life and still has descendants living in Montana carrying on the Kipp name. I have a picture of him on which some one wrote "our Uncle". Mother said he wasn't a blood relative but probably someone related to him had part in caring for her mother, Emma, during years when she was cared for by her mother's people after her mother died.

Joseph, called Joe or Raven was the son of James Kipp

## Emma's Quilt

Zack Larsen and Emma Solomon married in 1891 and lived in Harlem, Montana until Emma's father, Moses, got sick and sent for Emma.

Moses was still living on the Marias River. It was crippling rheumatism caused by old bullet wounds that laid him low again. She came leaving her furniture and the best chairs she ever owned in their Harlem house not knowing she would never go back for them or live there ever again. Moses got better and the Larsens took up a ranch two miles west of Solomon's Place. There they raised their family and lived for many years. Bad times came at the same time the government was urging all Gros Ventres to move onto a now smaller reservation. So they packed up and moved to Fort Belknap.

About that time a department store business man took over the property Zack and Emma owned in Havre. Needing a clear title to the land he sent men out to the reservation, where Emma and Zack had recently moved. These men came with a few yards of fabric and several old sample books containing swatches of fabric for men's wool suits and pants, believing that a few scraps of cloth would satisfy any woman living on a reservation. Emma sent them back to make a more valuable offer before she signed their papers. The wool suit samples measuring about four by six inches were quickly stitched into a quilt top of many dark colors. A wool batting and backing was anchored to the top with strands of red yarn tied into bows, and were placed in the center of every block. That made it easy to take apart when the quilt needed cleaning and the batting needed to be re-carded. I saw this happen before the quilt was given to my mother.

In my turn to sleep covered with that quilt I was always snug and warm even when the banked fire in the potbelly stove went out on cold winter nights. This quilt had been used by someone for more than seventy years when brother Glenn claimed it during the division of mother's things. He too knew the value the quilt's warmth in cold rooms. Somewhat thread bare and shaggy around the edges he took it to his riverside cottage and hung it over the rail in his sleeping loft like valuable treasure.

Emma Solomon Larson: March 28, 1875 – 24 March 1948, age 73; M 14 Dec. 1890 age 15

Zack . Larsen: 30 March 1859 – 21 Aug. 1921, age 62; Married age 31

## Esther Eastlund's Story: THE SUMMER OF 1906

When the girls were attending school at Fort Shaw their parents built a sod roofed two room log cabin and their grandfather, Moses sold his place to invest in prospering new gold mines at Kendell, Montana where he also had a tavern. He would return every winter to stay with his daughter just two miles west of his old place. ---

When grandpa Moses said his goodbyes, in the spring of 1906, before leaving for Kendell he said to the girls, "I have a feeling I won't be seeing you again." Esther remembers looking in his eyes as they stood together by his wagon. His light almost transparent blue eyes seemed to be constantly darting here and there, scanning the horizon as though he was looking far off into the hills ever on the look-out for any danger that might be lurking there. She remembered the nights Moses would call out in his sleep, "There coming! They are coming!" and he would grope frantically under his pillow searching for the gun he once had to sleep with. Her father Zack would shake him awake saying, "Mose, Mose, wake up! its just a dream you are having."

The summer started out as a very good year. There was an abundance of baby chicks, ducks, geese, and turkeys. The garden was in and coming up well. Zack was way off in the middle of the state some place cooking for the spring roundup. Before he left he had plowed the fields and hauled in lumber for a new kitchen he planned to add onto the house. Then in June it started to rain, day after day heavy rain fell. The rivers began to over flow. The dam at Helena broke and the Missouri river backed up into the Marias and Teton Rivers.

The lumber had been stacked on the low side of the hill. As the water got higher Emma who was six months pregnant, began to worry about the lumber and went out with Agnes and the boys to move it higher up the hill. Esther was left in charge of the baby, nine-month-old Tillie. When the water got near the house she pushed the baby in the buggy over the ruts and stones in the rain softened muddy earth up the hill to tell her mother. Emma couldn't believe her and sent one of the boys back to see. He came running back shouting that the water was already in the house and rising fast. They all hurried down to the house, backed the wagon up to the kitchen door, and everyone helped grab everything they could carry, including a tent, blankets, food, and staples from the store room. When the wagon had all it could hold the horses were harnessed and hitched. Now they had to go through water and around the garden and up to the top of the hill, then hurry back for the livestock. Esther remembers trying to save the young chicks and ducks by gathering them up in a tub. The water was coming in the chicken coops and the chicks were floating away.

From their spot on the hill they saw the lumber float away and many animals and things from other farms up river came washing down tumbling about in the raging current. Toward evening the chickens wanted to go back to their home roost and one by one would fly off and drown. Every time a hen would take wing squawking as they landed in the water, Emma would say, "You crazy old hen!"

A day or two later after the news of the flood reached Zack, he with a couple of friends tried to come home. But there was no place where they could cross the swollen river. The family heard shouts but answers could not be heard at that distance above the roar of the water rushing through the tree tops. Zack wanted to jump in and try to swim across, but his friends held him back. Emma had the children line up in a row so he could count them and know they were all safe. Standing hand in hand was Agnes

15, Esther 13, Big 11, Little 10, Ed 2 1/2, and Tillie in her mother's arms. A few days later Zack was able to cross over at a bridge further down river.

While they were camping out waiting for the water to recede a neighbor, Mrs. Southerland, who lived up over the hill, came to get some feed grain for her animals as her grain was all under water and the animals were starving. Big waded through water up to his arm pits to get the sacks of grain out of the barn.

When they were able to go down to the house they found a foot of mud on the floors. They continued to live in the tent until the house was cleaned and dried out. The water had come up to just under the grand piano. All the animals they couldn't take with them were gone. Before the flood the woods and coolies had been so full of domestic rabbits, black rabbits, white rabbits, and spotted black and white rabbits, that were offspring's of a pair that were once family pets.

Years later Esther would kid her husband Eric about being the cause of the Larsen's home being flooded. That was after she learned that one of Eric's first jobs was with a construction crew hired to install the steel at the dam in Helena. The same dam broke out again some years later.

## Marias River Visit, April 5, 2006

If you were to drive north on highway 87 about fifteen miles from Fort Benton to where the road curves around to the west side of the Marias river, and before crossing into the small town called Loma, you would see a row of white cottages under the shade of old cottonwood trees. To the left would be a bridge for cars and another bridge for the railroad, (both with black iron girders and trusses) and the small town of perhaps one or two hundred people. To the right are grain elevators and in the background you can see the coolies and above them the flat bench land that is prevalent in that part of Montana. At least that is the way I remembered it from my first visit in 1970.

Now about thirty-four years later I have a chance to show my son and daughter where, Moses Solomon, our first ancestor to come to the United States settled, and where my mother was born. This time we came into the town from the north east and I kept looking for the bridges as a land mark. But the bridges with overhead structures were no longer there, and the railroad tracks had all been removed in 1984. The white cottages called The Rose Motel owned by Gar and Vivian Wood are still standing and that is the spot we were looking for.

James Wood, the local historian, conformed that we had found the right place.

While I never claimed Moses to be a first settler, James says he was the third person (with a paper trail) to settle in that part of Montana.

\*\*\* Re consider if this belongs here \*\*\*

He also told us how Moses' two room log cabin happened to be built. It was also where the Ophir Massacre took place in 1865 when miners tried to build a port town for ships coming up from St Louis bringing supplies and taking their gold down. They had built a few two room cabins before a couple of incidents in Fort Benton occurred in which white men carelessly killed a number of Blackfoot or Blood Indians and it has been said that Indians led by Calf Foot retaliated by killing ten wood cutters hired to build this community caused the project to be abandoned. It was in one of these two room cabins that Moses had acquired.

Moses lived here until 1900. He built a ice house, a hen house (raised enough turkeys to feed the whole town of Fort Benton on Thanksgiving). He also had a horse stable and a four-room building, sleeping quarters for travelers. A door from each room opened to a common long porch. He operated a inn, a saloon, a ferry and once tried to build a bridge. At one time or other people came there to vote or get mail. Later he was appointed county corner.

We stood at the river bank and tried to visualize the story mother often told about how her parents got married. Mose objected because Zack, a round-up cook in those Cowboy days, had a reputation of being a bar room brawler. Moses went out with his gun shouting at Zack, who was rowing across the river to Get Emma, "I'll shoot if you don't turn back." But Zack just kept on rowing. Emma pleaded. Moses relented, and Zack's promised to quit drinking. They married in Fort Benton the county seat and lived in Havre until Moses got sick and sent for Emma. It was while caring for Moses that Esther their second child was born in her grandfather's house at Loma.. When Zack saw the suffering of child birth he vowed there won't be any more. It was a promise he couldn't keep any better than not drinking for there were fourteen babies in all.

## Timeline

DATE	EVENT	REFERENCE
7-8-1830	Moses Solomon BORN	Beerfelden, Germany
2-7-1847	Moses' brother SOL came to America	
@ 1848	Moses came to America	
1849	Worked in New York as a peddler	
1850	Moses, Sol, sister Esther & husband Simon Lyon Together in Peoria, Ill.	1850 Census
1851		
1852	Moses went to San Francisco via Isthmus of Panama -Established a mattress firm with his brother Sol in Sacramento -Nov 1852: Burned out, and rebuilt	
10-1-1853	Sol returns to Peoria	
1854		
1855	Last year Moses' Mattress Co. listed	in Sacramento City directory
1856	No record found of Moses' until 1864 probably prospected for gold	
1857		
1858	Prospected for gold, Cariboo, BC	
1859		
1860		
1861	Prospected for god, Biose, Walla Walla	
1862		
1863		
1864	-Fort Benton: First report of Moses Solomon in Montana  -Fort Benton	<b>"The Cannon and the Mule"</b> US Commission of Annual Reports INDIAN OFFICE REPORT 1866 Microfilm roll 4158 page 198  <b>"Frontier Fun"</b> This story was published three times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>MONTANA The Magazine of Western History</i>, volume 5, October 1955, number four page 58:</li> <li>• which was reprinted from the Fort Benton <i>River Press</i> of December 24, 1884</li> </ul> John G Lepely's account of the Cannon and the Mule
1865		
1866	-Jan 9, 1866: Report mentions Moses Solomon as a member of a search party looking for Hinicke and Legree who were killed by Piegan Indians.	Report from Major G.E Upson written by his chief clerk H.D.Upham: From <b>U.S. Commission of Annual Reports</b>

DATE	EVENT	REFERENCE
		INDIAN OFFICE REPORT 1866 Micro film Roll 4158 card 2 page 198
	-Trip down Missouri River	
1867		
1868	Moses Solomon wounded in a Sioux fight on way to wreck of Amelia Poe	<i>Helena Weekly Herald</i> ; Benton MT; Dec 30, 1868 "Wreck of Amelia Poe" 1868 2 <sup>nd</sup> report of Indian Fight at Wreck of Amelia Poe
1869		
1870		
1871 & 1872	Farwell and Solomon build trading posts in Cypress Hills, Canada	
1873		
1874	Moses Solomon dealing in horses: travels between Fort Benton and Fort Belknap (an Indian reservation)	
1875	Fort Benton, MT: -Moses Solomon shot by Jeff Perkins -Married Strike -3/28/1875 Daughter EMMA born -Prisoners discharged	
1876		
1877	Second daughter ROSE born	
1878	Wife Strike died	
1879		
1880	-Rose sent to family down river- boat frozen at Bismark? -Marias, MT (now called Loma) Moses, Emma, John Sarand (carpenter) produced 4,000 turkeys for holidays	
1881		
1882	-Choteau county, MT: Moses elected coroner	
1883		
1884		
1885		
1886		
1887	At Marias, MT (now called Loma): -May 11: Robbed -May 25: Goods and prisoner returned -June 22: Flood, lost boat -Aug 30?: Fire destroyed barn -Arrested for selling liquor to railroad men. -Suspended	
1888	At Marias, MT (now called Loma):	

DATE	EVENT	REFERENCE
	March: Bridge on Marias River completed	
	November: Large corn crop	
1889		
1890		
1891	Daughter Emma married	
	First granddaughter Agnes born	
1892		
1893	Moses sick: asks Emma to come home to Marias	
	-Feb 14: second granddaughter Esther born	
1894		
1895		
1896		
1897		
1898	Cleaned out tavern for first school room for grand children and neighborhood	
1899		
1900	Renewed license for Marias	
	-Feb 7: Building tavern in Fort Benton	
	-Employee accidentally shot Jack Hayes	
	-March: opened new place	
	-April: Moses sick, at hospital in Great Falls	
	-May 25: returned to Ft. Benton much improved	
	-October: voter registration	
	-Dec: sold ranch on Marias to Chaples	
	-Dec visited school at Ft. Shaw	
	-Dec 20: first trip to see family in Illinois	
1901	Opened a tavern in new mining town of Kendall. Spent winters with daughter Emma's family at Loma	
1902	2 <sup>nd</sup> trip to Illinois relations	
1903	-April: on visit to Larsen's, broke through ice	
1904		
1905		
1906	-June 22: returned to Kendall after absence of one year.	
	-Aug: daughter Emma called to sickbed.	



DATE	EVENT	REFERENCE
	-Aug 24 Emma called home to tend sick child.	
	-Aug 27 Moses Solomon died.	
	-Moses Solomon buried in Kendall MT.	
1979	Kendall Is now a ghost town owned by Montana boy scouts	

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# Moses Salomon Family Tree

Moses Salomon ~ Family Tree

