

# The Wagon Tongue

Volume 11 Issue 2

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
website: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org)  
Visit MVHA on Facebook: "Madison Valley History Association"

April 2013

---

**From the Wagon Seat- President Don Black:** Don is busy being a new grandparent and other numerous activities for MVHA so the editor took liberties in reporting on all of the latest happenings. :)

## **William Ennis Birthday Celebration**

The fifth annual William Ennis Birthday Celebration, sponsored by the Madison Valley History Association was held March 17 at the Ennis School Cafeteria. This was the first time in 5 years that William Ennis' birthday fell on a Sunday and was held from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.. A good crowd feasted on Irish Stew, Irish soda bread, Blarney stones and Birthday cake. Most everyone stayed for the afternoon, had seconds of great food, enjoyed great company and great conversations that never ended until the clean-up was complete. If you did not attend, you missed a great birthday celebration of the founding father of our great community of Ennis.

A great big Thank you to all the MVHA members who helped in some way to make this celebration a success. Planning meetings, posters, putting up posters, window display, Madisonian articles, getting the supplies, arranging for the stew and cole slaw, getting donations from the merchants, setting up, serving, cleaning up, and a myriad of tasks to pull this off. We don't have a complete list of all that helped so cannot list them but you know who you are and thanks a bunch.

For those of you who are new or just did not know, William Ennis, the founder of the town of Ennis was born in Ireland on March 17, St. Patrick's Day; thus our celebration each year on March 17. Stay tuned for next year.

Awards were presented to the two students who won the "I like William Ennis Because," essay contest. Both students are 7th graders in Mr. Nelson's English class at Ennis Junior High School. Kelsie Frey placed first with her essay titled *The Founder of Ennis, William Ennis* and received a copy of the Early Days in the Madison Valley by James S. Spray and her choice of jewelry made by MVHA President, Don Black. Will Gilmore placed second with his essay entitled *William Ennis* and Will chose a copy of Early Days in the Madison Valley by James S. Spray for his award. Both students read their essays to the audience. You will find the winning essays printed on page 4 and 5 of this issue.

Programs of past months featured in January "History of Bear Creek School" with Mona Durham and Karen Shores, February was "Larry Zabel Reflections" with DVD and Zabel memorabilia provided by Beverly Claassen and March was the William Ennis Birthday Celebration. and now this month the "History of the Varney Oil Well" researched by Don Black. Check out Looking Ahead on page 6 to get the summer programs on your calendar.

## **Museum opening**

Spring always gets the MVHA thinking about the opening of the museum. Otis Thompson has been busy preparing walkway boards and he will lead the project of completing the walkway from the museum to the forge building. Give Otis a call (682-7415) if you have a few hours to help with this project. Highway cleanup for the museum section of highway is scheduled for May 11. Meet at the museum with good walking shoes, gloves, sun screen and water at 9:00 am weather permitting.

The museum will open for Memorial Day weekend May 25, 26 and 27. Volunteers are needed to greet guests at the museum for 1:00 to 4:00pm. The museum will open for the season on June 11 and will be open Tuesday through Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00pm. until September or October or when folks stop coming by. Sign up calendars will be passed at meetings but call Larry at 682-5780 if you can help out by taking a day. The museum cannot be available for visitors unless you, the members, take a day to keep the museum open. If you live away from Ennis, plan your summer visit, trip or just make a special trip to come and volunteer at the museum. It is only 3 hours and is fun. If every member who is able could take a day, keeping the museum open for visitors would be very easy. See you at the museum this summer!!

Donations have been coming in. Madison Valley Woman's Club and Vintage Attic gave early day baby clothes, old nurse's dresses and medical clothing and another box which will be a surprise as we go through it. Larry Love just picked up a nice assortment of military uniforms from WWI and WWII from John Hauk of the VFW. Don Black just received several photo albums and assorted pictures of Bobbi Brand's Rodeo pictures for years 1979 to 1984. Members are working hard at getting these items ready for summer at the museum. Call to volunteer if you would like to help with getting these displays ready. Many hands make light work and the more the merrier!

**History Tidbit:** For sale: brick hotel building with furnishings. Ask Mrs. William Ennis Dec. 11, 1903 *Times*

**Welcome to Membership** The following have joined since the January issue. If you know any of these new members or if they live near you, please invite them to attend the next MVHA meeting and welcome them aboard

**Arrow Real Estate Toni & Don Bowen (B)**

P.O. Box 1490 (406)682-4290  
Ennis, MT 59729

**Allestad, Janet (Knight)(I)** 843-5668

P.O. Box 235 (cell 406-660-1453)  
Virginia City, MT 59755

**Warburton, Esther & Gene (F)** 682-7740

P.O. Box 1104  
Ennis, MT 59729

**Wilkins, Gene (I)** 682-4688

335 Ennis Lake Rd.  
Ennis, MT 59729

**White, Roger (I)**

7 Foothill Terrace  
Aberdeen, Scotland AB117UR  
United Kingdom

**Membership Update** 2013 memberships are now due. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your 2013 membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your '13 membership is due during April, May or June or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal slip included with in this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor.

If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

++++  
**Member News**

Long time MVHA and Honorary member, **Hal Pasley** has spent the winter with son, Al, in Arizona. He has had a great time while there and has spent most of his time sitting on the patio. The Montana Talking Books Library sent his books for his machine and he has spent a great deal of time listening to them. He has said many times that he misses his friends in Ennis that come by and see him and he is looking forward to seeing them all when he returns to Montana on April 11, with daughter, Hallie Adam. Submitted by son, Al.

**John Scully**, MVHA member, has filed to be a candidate for trustee of the Ennis School Board. (From the *Madisonian*)

**Willie's Distillery** on Main Street Ennis in the former Texaco Station location is open for business. Robin and Willie Blazer are owners and founders. Stop by and see a new piece of history as they produce Montana Moonshine which is an unaged version of bourbon whiskey. (From the *Madisonian*.) Moonshine is back in the valley! See one of the valley's original moonshine stills at the museum this summer.

**Don and Darla Black**, MVHA members and Don is currently president, are proud and brand new grandparents with the arrival of William Henry born on Mar.15 to Devney (Black) and Bill Perry. (From the *Madisonian*)

**Anita Ames** celebrated her 90th birthday on April 8, 2013. Happy Birthday, Anita!

Please send any special member news to the editor of the Wagon Tongue.

-----  
**Memories**

Long time MVHA member, **Joy Eletha Bates Schendel** passed away on January 2, 2013 at the Madison Valley Manor. She was born on July 29, 1919 in Bellevue, Idaho to Mack and Elva Carter Bates. Joy's sister, Bobby Bates Klatt submitted this memory of her sister.

**Remembering Joy Bates Schendel**

The first ten years of Joy's life were spent in Bellevue, Idaho. She told me recently those were the happiest years of her life.

She and her parents, Mack and Elva Bates lived in the town of Bellevue. They had a lovely home there. Dad owned a service station and shop. Our grandparents, Jon and Ella Carter, owned a small farm on the outskirts of town. where they raised some crops and sheep. Now and then Granddad Carter would fetch Joy with a team and wagon, take her to the farm to spend the weekend. She loved that.

Joy was sad to leave her friends and grandparents when her family moved to Montana. But a few years later her grandparents moved to Ennis too. Also, I was born a year or so later so that must of added some excitement to her life.

Joy started school in Ennis in fourth grade. She graduated in 1937. She was the last member of her class of '37 when she passed away. Joy attended Normal College in Dillon for two years. There she met her lifelong friend, Violet (Scotchy) Burns Thexton. Scotchy was a graduate student and she took Joy under her wing. Joy taught school at Moise, MT for one year.

She married Wilson Schendel (high school sweetheart) in 1940 at St. James Episcopal Church in Bozeman. They spent most of their married life in Missoula where Wilson worked on the Northern Pacific Railroad. Their son, Dale, was born and raised in Missoula. After retirement, they moved to Bozeman and spent winters in Mesa, AZ.

Joy spent the last six years of her life alone. Wilson passed away in 2007 and son, Dale, died in 2008 from cancer.

Joy is very proud of Dale.

(cont on pg 3)

## **Memories cont from pg 2**

He was a commercial pilot for Northwest Airlines.

Joy moved back to Ennis in July 2012. She resided at Madison Valley Manor. She was happy to be back in Ennis. She had a beautiful view of Fan Mountain from her window.

Joy left us January 2, 2013. We miss her. Her sister

Thank you Bobby for submitting your memory of your sister, Joy, to the *Wagon Tongue*. Stories like this help with the MVHA's mission of preserving the history of the Madison Valley.

**Michael O' Rourke**, 86, passed away Dec. 21, 2012 in Butte. He was born on June 4, 1926 in Butte to Michael A. and Julia (Sullivan) O'Rourke. In Mick's younger years he worked on the Madison River Dam in the Bear Trap and he and his wife, Rae, and their children spent many years camping and fishing in the Madison area. For more than 30 years they have enjoyed spending time at their summer place in McAllister.

**Kenneth Luke Kay, Jr.**, 83, passed away on Dec. 24, 2012 at the Madison Valley Manor in Ennis. He was born on April 15, 1929 in Oakes, N. D. to Kenneth L. Kay, Sr. and Sydney (Newstrom) Kay. Ken was proud of his pioneer history. His great-grandparents came to Montana from England in 1856. His grandfather was born in 1867 in a tent near Bannack. His grandmother was a cousin to May Hunter Doane, wife of the Army officer who led the first military expedition in 1870 into what later became Yellowstone Park. Kenneth is father to Janet Zimmerman of Pony.

**Janice L.(Anderson) Smith** passed away on Jan 10, 2013 at her home in Alder. She was born on Nov. 4, 1943 to Lawrence and Margaret Anderson. Her father was in the construction business and brought his family to Ennis in 1959 after the big earthquake. When work ran out, the family moved on but Janice chose to stay and got a job working at Betty's Cafe.

**Dale E. Clark** passed away Jan. 11, 2013 in Arizona. Dale moved his family to Ennis in 1951 to help his father-in-law, P. Lee Bollinger run the Norris Telephone Co. Over the next eight years, the two men moved the newly named Madison Valley Telephone Co. from the age of old fashioned "crank and shout," "Hello Central" telephone service to the modern dial telephone age. After Lee Bollinger died in 1959, Dale assumed ownership of the telephone company and provided service from South of Varney Bridge to North of Harrison and from halfway between Ennis and Virginia City East to include what is now Big Sky Ski Resort.

**Bonnie Jean (Garrett) Workman** of Norris passed away Jan. 20, 2013. She was born on Sept. 27, 1939 in Casper, Wyo., to Edd Lee and Viola May(Taylor) Garrett. Bonnie studied nursing getting her Bachelor Degree in Nursing at Montana State University in Bozeman. She was the second Nursing Administrator at the Ennis Hospital. In addition to her long nursing career she owned and operated Rivergal Shuttle Service, LLC which was a shuttle service for fly fishermen on the Madison River.

**Frederick James Shively** passed away on

Jan. 23, 2013. He was raised in Roslyn, S.D. by parents Harold and Cora Bell Shively. His life long entrepreneurial spirit bought Jim and his wife, Ellen, to Ennis in 1972 where they first bought the Longbranch Saloon with a partner.

During the years they lived in Ennis, Jim owned and operated many businesses including several restaurants and Lick-a-Dee-Lube, an oil change business. He was also Ennis town judge. For nearly a decade, Jim and Ellen served as the camp hosts of the Ennis campground. Phyllis Wasick, MVHA member and close friend of the Shively's, shared a story that Jim loved to tell. He owned the Ennis Cafe and Betty's Cafe. One evening a disgruntled customer complained about the poor menu and other displeasures and wanted to know if there was another better restaurant in town. Jim shared that there was a good one right across the street and that they were welcome to go there. The unhappy customer stomped out and crossed the street. Jim made sure that he crossed over some time later just in time to take the customer's money as they paid their bill at Betty's Cafe.

**Clinton Brent Warburton** passed away Jan 23, 2013. He was born April 6, 1944 in Brigham City, Utah to Hazel and Karl Warburton. His childhood was spent on the family ranch at Cameron and he graduated from Stevensville, MT high school. His sister is Karen Dringle and brother is newest MVHA member, Gene Warburton.

**Juana Joyce (Willett) McKnight** passed away at St. Peters Hospital in Helena, MT on March 1, 2013. She was born on August 30, 1938 in Butte, Mt to Kemp and Doris Willett. Juana attended Ennis schools and graduated from Ennis High School in 1956. Her brother is long time Madison Valley resident, Jay Willett.

**James Harrison "Hungry" Saunders** passed away on March 4, 2013 at the Madison Valley Hospital in Ennis. He was born in Morgantown, West Virginia to William Millard and Virginia Manley Southern Saunders on Aug. 15, 1923. He attended Ennis schools and graduated from Ennis High School. Harrison attended Western Montana College in Dillon briefly before being drafted into the Army and serving in WWII. Harrison found his calling when he became a back hoe operator and formed Saunders Excavation Company. He was once called on in 1972 to dig a channel into the gorge ice near the Ennis Bridge so that the Madison River waters would not flood the town.

**David "Bus" Richardson**, 97, passed away March 4, 2013 at the Madison Valley Manor in Ennis. He was born in a raging blizzard in Great Falls, MT on Feb. 21, 1916 to John and Flora (Gervais) Richardson. He ranched for many years near Geyser. In 2002 their grandson built a home for them at McAllister to be near daughter Marilyn and Terry Jenkins. Marilyn is a long time teacher for the Ennis Schools.

**Phyllis E. (Day)Richter** of Toston, Mt. passed away March 12, 2013. She was born in Idaho Falls, Idaho on May 24, 1923 to Lucy May and Abraham John Day. Phyllis is the mother of

(cont. on pg 4)





**For Your Reading Pleasure**

The Road Between by Florence Bell Ore Memoir written by the speaker for the May Annual Meeting. Available at Madison Valley Public Library and Twin Bridges Library and other libraries around the state. Will be available for purchase at annual meeting.

**Looking Ahead**

**May 16th , 2013** Trinity Church, Jeffers 4:00 to 6:00 Annual meeting, Awards and Potluck Program Writing Your Memoir by Florence Ore of Pony

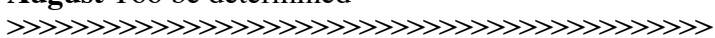
**June 20, 2013** 4:00pm First Madison Valley Bank downstairs meeting room. Program: Dawn in El Dorado the Early Mining Camps and Settlement of the Montana Territory by Gary Forney

7:00ish Fire Pit Social at the MVHA museum and forge BYOB, snacks, marshmallows and other beverage

**May 11, 2013** 9:00am Highway Cleanup (see pg 1)

**July 26, 2013** All day 9am to 6pm Photo tour of the Madison Valley and BBQ Feature history, scenery, wildlife and people. Sponsored by MVHA, Ghost Town Preservation Society and Camera Club of Bozeman Details to be announced. This will be the MVHA meeting for month of July

**August** Too be determined



**MVHA Cookbook** It is not too late to get a copy of the MVHA historical cookbook. It is available at the at the Ennis Pharmacy. You may still order copies for \$15 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling to MVHA, P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729. This is a great Mother’s Day gift or gift for an “old timer”.

**Walk of Names** MVHA’s project for 2013 will be to complete the deck and handicapped walkway to the Forge building . Orders are s being taken for the Walk of Names boards. You may order one for \$50 at the address below or by calling 682-5780 or 682-7415. Don’t forget to honor a family or family member or give a memorial. A great gift! Madison Valley History Association, Inc. P.O. Box 474 Ennis, MT 59729. Your donation is tax deductible.

**From the Mail Box** Roger White (*cont. from page 5*)

My mother married twice. Her first husband was killed in W.W.II. Her second husband, Ronald George White, was my father. Both passed away some time ago. Neither of my parents had much contact with their relatives and I only began to investigate my family history after they died. I found out about William, Stephen and their brothers and sisters and began to track down information about all of them...except William, who disappeared from the English records sometime in the 1860’s.

Eventually I found a reference to a William John Foreman in Virginia City. When I got a hold of some US censuses I became convinced he was my missing ancestor. A lady in Montana kindly sent me some pages about him from the book Pioneer Trails and Trials and I received further information from a Thexton in Australia who was also researching his family history.

There matters rested until I discovered the

**MVHA Board of Directors**

President: Don Black  
Vice-President: Larry Love  
Past President: Otis Thompson  
Treasurer: Kevin Brenneke  
Secretary: David Hoag  
Director: Liz Applegate  
Director: Shirley Love

Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month or as scheduled. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program. Board Meetings are held the **1st** Wednesday of each month 10:00am. First Madison Bank conference room Oct. to April Museum MVHA Office May to Oct.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be July 2013.

Editor: Shirley Love e-mail.whitneypranch@wispwest.net

Contributing editors:

- Bobby Klatt *Remembering Joy Bates Schendel*
- Dr Jeffery Safford *The “Devils Teapot”*
- Kelsie Frey *The Founder of Ennis*
- Will Gilmore *William Ennis*
- Hal Pasley *Nature’s Beauty*

**Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by the First Madison Valley Bank**

+++++  
Madison Valley History Association web site. They put their newsletters online. I found various references in them to Foremans and Thextons including a note from Robert (Bob) Foreman who you mention. From the names in his description of family parties in the past I knew he must be a relative. I then contacted Don Black of the association who kindly put me in touch with Robert. His wife, also a Mary Ann, used e-mail and we have exchanged information.

And now I have found you! Believe it or not, I think I know what you look like because on the MVHA Facebook page there is a photo of a meeting they had last year on moonshine and you and your husband are in one of the photos. You’re all smiling, so maybe you had free samples of the product?! Of course in Scotland we have our own special brand of the stuff- good Scotch Whisky.

Thank you for giving me Bob Foreman’s address and also mentioning the English couple-Reggie and Vickie Dixon. I haven’t heard of them so may write to them to see if they are Foreman relatives.

Although I live in Scotland, I am English and was born North of London where some Foreman relatives were living and farming before my parents moved there.

Mary Ann, thank you again for writing to me. In the old country we always think that it is the folks who left to emigrate that are keen to trace their roots. But it sometimes works the other way round and you have helped me trace some of mine.

All the best to you, George and your family. Who knows I might make it to Big Sky country one of these days. Roger