

News from the Red Caboose

WINTER 2021



Who Was Milo Collins?

By Karen Reinhart

This was Tom Hogg's question as he began a research journey more than forty years ago. At that time, he knew that Milo was his wife Cindy's great-grandfather and a *Apsáalooke* (Crow) Indian.

Three generations of the Collins family have lived in the Reed Point area. Reed Point was once part of Gallatin (1864), Park (1887), Sweet Grass (1895), and finally, Stillwater (1913) County. Tom searched for records in each county and finally discovered a marriage certificate at the Park County Clerk of District Court office. The certificate stated that Milo Collins married Isabella Weisel on April 19, 1891 in Big Timber. It also noted that Milo was one-half *Oneida* Indian, had been previously married, and was born on November 12, 1834 in Oneida County, New York. Milo's mother's maiden name was Abigail Fowler; his father's surname was "Collins."

Tom then began a twenty-year search for Collins in records of Oneida County, New York and holdings of the genealogical library in Salt Lake City. He also enlisted the help of genealogists in New York who said that the surname Fowler was prominent on the Brothertown tract. The Brothertown Indians were a group



Cindy and Tom Hogg

of English-speaking Christians from seven New England tribes (*Narragansett, Montauk, Mohegan, Tunxis, Niantic* and two *Pequot*) joined together because of increasing pressures created by the colonization of America. In the 1790s they moved to land granted them by the *Oneida* Indians in western New York. But soon the government pressured them to move west. They requested deeded land, rather than a reservation, and settled on the east shore of

Lake Winnebago, south of Green Bay, Wisconsin, starting about 1830. Each person was given a fifty-acre parcel.

Tom's curiosity was insatiable. Brothertown history mentioned a Seketer (*Se-kee-ter*) family with a son named Milo C, and a map showed a neighbor named "Collins Fowler." Tom found Milo Seketer in 1850 and 1855 Wisconsin census records, which stated he was a farmer, born circa 1830 in New York. He was also listed in a number of Calumet County, Wisconsin (Brothertown's location) land deeds but after May 1860 his name vanished from the deeds and the federal census. Was Milo Collins actually Milo Seketer?

Some of you may have read *Memoirs of a White Crow Indian*, a story about Thomas LeForge, as told by Thomas B. Marquis. In the chapter about the First Crow Agency (known as Fort Parker, named for Ely S. Parker, a *Seneca* Indian and Commissioner of Indian Affairs under President Ulysses S. Grant) that was established east of Livingston above Mission Creek in 1870, LeForge relayed that "Marlow Collins, an *Iroquois* Indian from New York,

(Continued on page 10)

Park County: A Special Place to Call Home

By Mark Brammer, Executive Director

We live in a special place with spectacular landscapes throughout Park County and Yellowstone. It is a joy to be able to share and interpret how this landscape has helped shape the past and present of those who call this area home. If you have not visited our website lately, follow the link to our YouTube account. There, you will learn more about people who have called this area home for over 12,000 years by watching the wonderful series called Montana's Native People: Perspectives on the Clovis Child. This series gives a great introduction for college and high school students who might be interested in the speakers' various lines of work. These programs are just one example of a way you can stay in touch with the Yellowstone Gateway Museum even when we are not able to have visitors on site. Be sure to keep an eye on our webpage for information on our upcoming spring speaker series, which will also take place virtually.

Since joining the Yellowstone Gateway Museum as Executive Director I have been very appreciative of the community support shown to the museum and other cultural and community centers throughout the county. It is impressive seeing the work of staff and volunteers to transition into the virtual world with programs and exhibits that help make the knowledge and collections of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum accessible to everyone. While we all look forward to exhibits and programs being held again in the museum, it is important to



consider how these virtual experiences can connect a new audience to our museum. I am excited to see how we can continue to bring the YGM to a wider audience through these expanded offerings.

The natural history of the county is something we are often asked about, and we are happy to share a portion of that history with you when we can safely reopen and invite you to visit our newly finished Ice Age Mammals exhibit. This exhibit showcases the enormous Columbian Mammoth and early bison that once lived throughout the county. When we open, stop by and check out the amazing mural of a Columbian Mammoth in a watery Ice Age landscape created by local artist Kris Walker.

We are working with the Park Co. Health Department to make sure we are able to follow their guidelines when we reopen later this spring. Right now, we plan to be open for visitors with adjusted hours at least at the beginning.

As we all know, the last year has been a difficult time for many

who make up the cultural and arts communities. Many of the cultural events and locations that make this community unique and welcoming have not been able to take place or be open due to COVID-19. We have seen events and gatherings cancelled, festivals postponed, and venues closed. I thank all of you for the support you show not only to the Yellowstone Gateway Museum but to all the arts and cultural events and venues in Park County and beyond. Looking forward to the coming year, we know that not everything will be back to normal. COVID will still be part of the conversation, and we will have to look at how we can continue to make the YGM accessible and inclusive for all.

As the days start getting longer this spring and you start planning what landscapes you will visit in our county, be sure to check in on the local institutions, whether virtually or in person. I know now is the time that many of us can use that extra support. That support does not always have to be monetary, a nice shout out on social media of a virtual program or other event goes a long way for many of us. These institutions are a necessity when we look at building a community that people want to call home and where they can have a good quality of life. If you can think of anything the YGM can do to enhance the quality of life for Park County, please reach out and let me know. Again, it is a pleasure to be here at the YGM, and I look forward to meeting and working with you all.

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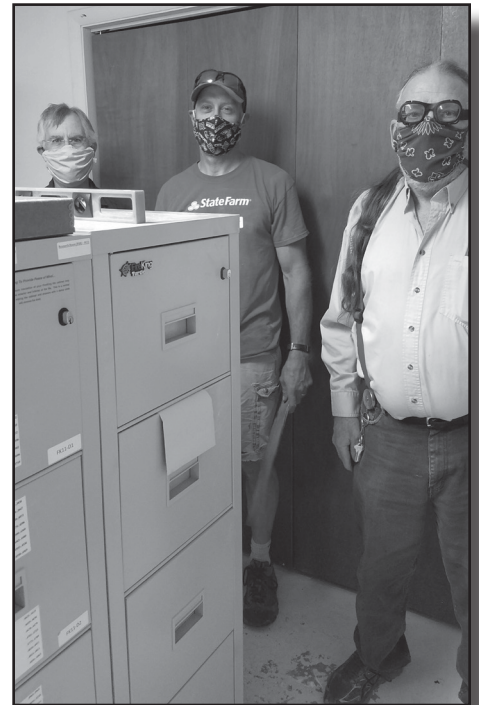
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.....

Some of our volunteers have understandably elected to not work at this time. We look forward to their return as they contribute so much time and energy to the museum.



Volunteers working on various aspects of the Warren McGee Railroad and Montana Research Archival Project. Above, L to R: Frank Wombacher, Jem Blueher, and Scott Franzen install a fireproof cabinet to house photographs. Below, left: George Bornemann consults with archivist Ellen Zazzarino about archiving maps. Below, right: Kirby Barford sorts and organizes archival materials. We're making progress!



Yellowstone Gateway Museum of Park County

118 W. Chinook St., Livingston, MT 59047 ~ 406.222.4184
museum@parkcounty.org ~ www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org

The museum is temporarily closed. Find us on Facebook, Instagram, & YouTube!

History for Home

By Jamie Potenberg

Live links available in our March e-newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/de5b057f188b/history-for-home>.

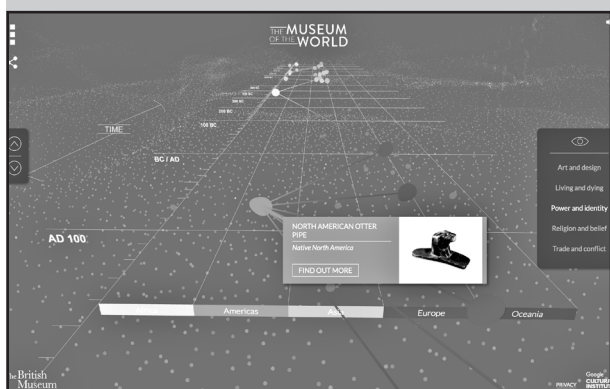
The Yellowstone Gateway Museum's fine online exhibits will let you Explore Yellowstone Through ART, providing the vision of such artists as Janie Camp, Bob Newhall, Christine Tiscione, and Bob Spanning (available through the main site or at <https://yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org/online-exhibits/exploringyellowstonethroughart/>). The Glimmers of History online exhibit provides fascinating photographs of winters that were far tougher than this one (pandemic excluded), as well as dozens of other scenes from other seasons, from 1890s bicyclists to 1930s bathing beauties. Honoring Park County Veterans: A Military History features locals who fought at Antietam, survived the trenches of the Argonne, freed concentration camps, and came under fire at Khe Sahn. Click the links at <https://yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org/online-exhibits/>.

Explore other states and countries from your computer!

The **National Archives** provides online exhibits on the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights, as well as on dozens of other topics, from Vietnam to presidential collections, Depression-era federal arts projects to the Archives' incredible Eyewitness collection of letters, films and recordings. <https://www.archives.gov/exhibits>

History.com provides a wonderful collection of exhibits for pandemic world surfing, with links to everything from the Xi'an Warriors to NASA virtual tours, American Virtual Trust Virtual Battlefield Tours to the Anne Frank House. <https://www.history.com/news/10-best-virtual-museums-tours-history-from-home>

Nothing is richer than the Smithsonian. Exhibits include Alexander von Humboldt, Women's Suffrage, and dozens of other special exhibits, as well as the permanent collection. <https://www.si.edu/exhibitions/online>



The **British Museum** allows you to travel through the rooms of the permanent collection and see treasures from Troy to Sutton Hoo to facets of Arctic exploration, and a myriad of civilizations and topics in between. [https://blog.britishmuseum.org/how-to-explore-the-british-museum-from-home/\(screenshot, left\)](https://blog.britishmuseum.org/how-to-explore-the-british-museum-from-home/(screenshot,%20left)). The History Connected page (<https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com/>) essentially gives all of human history in one interactive graphic.

Also via the incredible technology of **Google Arts and Culture** (<https://artsandculture.google.com/>), a rabbit hole that gives you information on everything from the science of color to rare apples to Pompeii, you can feel like you're standing in Berlin's Pergamon Museum, surrounded by the Elgin Marbles and Babylonian lions. <https://artsandculture.google.com/entity/pergamon/m05tcm?hl=en>. Through Google Art and Culture's other museum links, visit the Louvre, the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City, MOMA in New York City, the Rijksmuseum of Amsterdam, and literally hundreds of other fine collections. <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner>

Let these digital tools inspire and amaze you without having to leave your home!

PEOPLE & PLACE

A VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES

Wed., April 7, 7PM, Zoom*

The Day That Finally Came

Stories of the Little Shell Tribe, helping attendees understand who the People are, and how large a part they have played in the history of North America.

Chris LaTray, presenter



Wed., April 14, 7PM, Zoom*

Montana Women: Making Do & Making a Difference
(6:30 PM Friends Annual Meeting before program, Zoom*)

Stories of extraordinary Montana women: wives and mothers who served in traditional and non-traditional roles, as well as trailblazers.

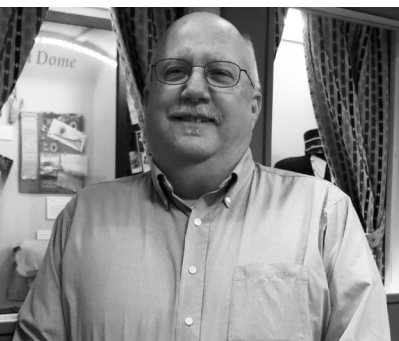
Karen Reinhart, presenter

Wed., April 21, 7PM, Zoom*

A Brief History of Cooke City

Cooke City waited for more than 60 years for the railroad until tourism took hold. Hartman explores the stories of this mountain berg's full-time residents.

Kelly Hartman, presenter



Wed., April 28, 7PM, Zoom*

Livingston and Park County: The Early Years

Agriculture, the Northern Pacific Railroad, and the tourism gateway to Yellowstone National Park influenced Park County's early development.

Paul Shea, presenter

*All programs are free & held via Zoom. Registration is required for *each* webinar program at www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org/webinars/programs. (April 14 link opens at 6:30pm for meeting; you can also join at 7:00pm.) The web site includes speaker bios & more information. After registration you'll receive emails with links to the programs. Questions? 406.222.4184.

Urana Clarke: Never, Never Retire

By Bruce Graham



Urana Clarke. Photograph by Fred Shellenberg, YGM Collections.

Urana Clarke boarded a train and came to Livingston in 1964 when she was sixty-two years old. During the thirty-seven years that she lived here she made many significant contributions to the community.

Urana followed her sister Harriet to Montana. Harriet had met Charlie Johnston while they were working at the Half Moon Ranch in Jackson Hole. They later married and in 1960, the Johnstons moved to Tye Creek, a fork of Mission Creek east of Livingston, to ranch and later operate a dude ranch for kids. Harriet gave up her work teaching physical education at colleges in Massachusetts.

Like her sister, Urana was well-educated. She earned an Artist's and Teacher's Diploma from Mannes School of Music in New York City in 1925, and then taught there for twenty years (her pupils included Winthrop Rockefeller, as well as family members of Irving Berlin, Benny Goodman, and Richard Rodgers), and at the Dalcroze School of Music in New York City for five years, commuting from her Westport, Connecticut home.

Urana's interests were varied. Just before WWII

she learned to sail. Urana enrolled in U.S. Power Squadron classes, becoming the first woman to finish the Navy's celestial navigation course in 1943. Two years later, she was a guest lecturer at Hayden Planetarium in New York. When she was sixty years old she attended Brown University in Rhode Island; her studies included the history of navigation and the Greek language, among other subjects.

After she moved to Montana, Urana taught many students how to play the piano at her home. Board member Judy Bonnell remembers attending her daughters' recitals there. Urana's golden retrievers were also in attendance, sometimes creating havoc.

For those of you who remember Urana, she was a small person, standing under five-feet tall. But she was a strong, determined, and passionate character.

Urana was the American Red Cross director of the Park County Chapter for a number of years. (Her scrapbooks are in the museum's collection.) She is probably the reason that my mother and father started giving blood, and the reason that I have given blood most of my life. Urana also involved a lot of high school students in setting up and taking down the blood drawings.

Urana bought land and built a log house (which she called Log-A-Rhythm) on Ninth Street Island where she lived until she died. Urana was very interested in watching the stars at night and liked the darkness of the island. When her neighbors bought property on the island and built a house, they installed a permanent yard light; she tried to get them to turn it off, but they wouldn't. They were from the city and thought the light gave them security. So Urana had a big slab fence built between their properties. Two years later she moved her house to a darker area on her property.

Urana was a director of the Big Sky Astronomical Society. She taught classes about astronomy. During her radio show on KPRK she talked about the stars (among other topics like the environment and birds). There is a park in the Wiemer Addition that is named Mars Park because Urana took people there to look at the stars at night. She also wrote *Big Skies*, a column for the *Livingston Enterprise*, archived at the museum.

Urana started the local winter bird count, held at

first the day after Christmas, because that was something that she had done back east. One of the criteria for the bird count was to pick a ten-mile circle and count the birds in this same circle every year. She placed the center of the circle on our ranch on Chicken Creek east of Livingston, and it covered Livingston, parts of Paradise Valley, parts of Shields Valley, and most importantly, her sister Harriet's ranch. My parents participated in the count every year and drove around the area looking for birds that wouldn't be found in town, like turkeys and grouse.

I remember one Thanksgiving my parents invited Harriet, Charlie, and Urana to dinner. Dad fixed Urana a drink with vodka and orange juice, and she said to dad that he sure knew how to treat a girl nice. She was in her sixties at the time.

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Editor's Note: *Urana died on May 18, 1999. Her obituary states that she told the Livingston Business and Professional Women, "Never, Never Retire" when they honored her with the Woman of Achievement Award in 1994.*



Urana Clarke, center, was also a member of the Save the Lagoon Committee, a group that formed in 1976. The restoration project was from July 1980 to July 1982. Photograph by Warren McGee, YGM Collections.

Floyd DeWitt's Sculpture By Karen Reinhart

"Urana Clarke... was beyond words, that is why at one point in time I decided to create a bronze bust of her, an endeavor taking several years to complete. It was intended as a monument to honor a friend and to celebrate who she was and what she stood for."

—Sculptor Floyd T. DeWitt in the Park Co. Weekly, 5/26/1999

Floyd Tension DeWitt created a sculpture of Urana Clarke, entitled *The Piano Teacher* (right). A beautiful bronze monument, it is a tribute to one of Livingston's amazing citizens.

Floyd, now eighty-six years old, grew up in Wolf Point, Montana, where he experienced the Western way of life and filled notebooks with sketches of horses. After high school, Floyd enlisted in the US Army, and was stationed in Germany. His artistic skill and talent was recognized, so Floyd served as Army sculptor, creating

a life-sized battalion monument. Returning to the States in 1957, he studied art in Minneapolis, and then studied at the prestigious National Academy of Fine Art in Amsterdam, Holland for six years. Floyd worked for the next twenty-five years as an artist in Europe where he is known for his knowledge and execution of the human figure, animals, and mythological composition.

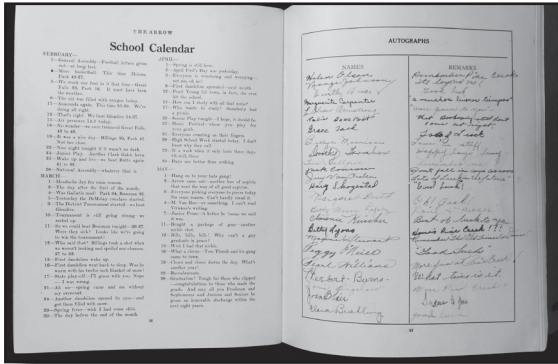
Floyd returned to Montana in 1984 and lived in Park County until 1991, which is when I met him and his wife, Carla, while



immersed in Livingston's art community. In 1991, Floyd exhibited more than 150 pieces at the Holter Museum of Art in Helena.

In August 2019, he unveiled *The Caregiver* at Livingston Health Care, where patients and visitors are greeted by his sculpture of compassion at the front door. Floyd continues to sculpt at his home near Bozeman.

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 Andy & Sandrine Olds: Milk cart, milk cans
 Pryor Orser: Park High Arrow yearbook, 1938 (left)
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 Park Co. Sheriff: Camera, lamp, misc. items
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 Dan Porter: Directory, 1939
 Shirley O'Neil Powell: Calendar plate, 1909
 Beverly Roberts: Telephone operator codes printout
 Mary Weamer: Yellowstone campground plans
 Addie & Phil Wickham: Geologic map, Gardiner, 1932

Babione Wilson Boots: Maps, blueprints
 Linda Best: Negatives taken of Warren McGee
 Denise Alexander Bittner: Fletcher & Taylor
 families' history, photos, archival items, books
 Cody Brundidge: Gardiner fire digital images (right)
 Janice Drout: Old Faithful Snow Lodge key fob
 Judy Edwards: 1st Natl. Park Bank mugs, 1974
 Scott Franzen: Ruler, advertising
 Lindie Gibson: Railroad station book
 Mariah Henry: Junior Ranger patch
 Juliann Jones & Rainer Krapf: Letter, 1887
 Bob Jovick: Embosser, archival materials
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 Livingston Roundup Assoc.: Rodeo Queen chaps (right)
 Tom Murphy Photography: Livingston Wind Farm
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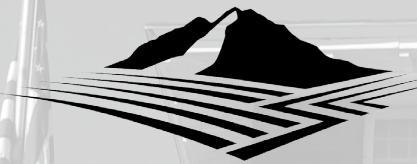
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Please mail to P.O. Box 815, Livingston, MT 59047.

(Continued from page 1)
was making a success up the Yellowstone River at farming and stock-raising.” Tom Hogg now speculated that this Marlow Collins was Milo Seketer. But he lacked proof.

Many internet searches later, Tom found a book preview of *The Beef Bonanza* by James S. Brisbin. In an alphabetical listing of Gallatin County stockgrowers, Milo Seketer was listed just above Nelson Story. (Remember that in 1879 Park County was part of Gallatin County.) Soon thereafter, Tom found another reference to Collins in *Custer’s Last Campaign: Mitch Boyer and the Little Bighorn Reconstructed* by John S. Gray. There, the author notes that Crow Indian agent James Wright identified Collins as Seketer. Wright had helped establish fourteen families at Pine Creek, including the Collins family.

With Milo’s earlier surname revealed, Collins’ early history began to come into focus. Milo was a full-blooded *Narragansett* (not *Oneida*, *Iroquois* or *Apsáalooke*) Indian probably born in Brother-

town, Oneida County, New York in about 1830. Milo disappeared from Brothertown, Wisconsin thirty years later. An article by John C. Ewers in the Spring 1963 issue of *Montana Magazine of Western History* states that Milo Seketer made his way to the valley of the Yellowstone River by 1868 and that he was adopted into the Crow Tribe through marriage to a relative of a prominent Crow chief. Milo and his Crow wife had no children; she died between 1887 and 1890.

Milo married Isabella a year later, keeping the Collins name alive. In another name twist, Tom found that Cindy’s great-grandmother Isabella’s actual surname was Desjarlais, a Metis name of French and Cree descent. She had left Canada with her people, living on the American Fork of the Musselshell River, south of Harlowton, and eventually on Sweet Grass Creek near Melville, north of Big Timber. Milo and Isabella had three children: Josephine (1891), Milo Jr. (1894) and Rebecca (1897). Milo Jr. is Cindy Hogg’s grandfather.

Tom found that Milo farmed and ranched on and off the reservation. He farmed at Pine Creek in Paradise Valley on the east side of the Yellowstone River when that area was part of the Crow Reservation. The 1868 treaty promised the allotment of farmland, seed money, and farming equipment to any tribal member willing to work the land. In 1881, Milo Seketer sold 5,500 pounds of potatoes at \$0.02 per pound (\$110) to the Crow Reservation. Before 1882 Milo used Seketer and Collins thereafter.

Later, Milo moved to an area between the Boulder River and Bridger Creek where he and another man raised sheep. Then, the Crows gave Milo an allotment of land near Reed Point, perhaps at an area then known as Oneida. This was part of a much larger area that the Crow Indians eventually ceded to the U. S. government in 1882 but Milo continued farming and ranching there until he died in April 1898 of pneumonia. Milo is buried near Reed Point.

Cindy now has valuable information about her Collins family.

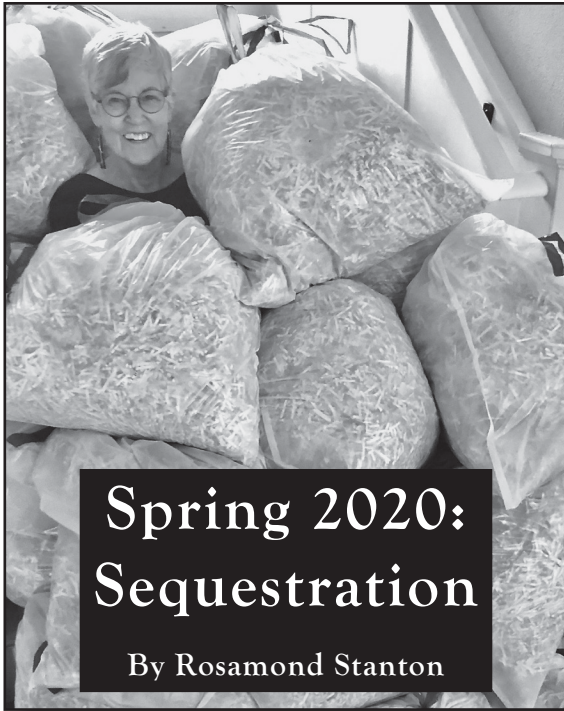
The Research Journey of Tom Hogg

This story is as much about the research journey of Tom Hogg as it is about Milo Collins Seketer. Tom graduated from Park High School in 1969 and attended Montana State University for one year as an architecture student. When he developed an ulcer and returned to Livingston to recuperate, he began working for his father, Tom Sr., who was a watchmaker and owned Tom’s Jewelry. Tom thought he’d return to school but fate kept him at his father’s side. He retired in 2016 after forty-six years as a jeweler.

Tom said that he felt like he “had been hatched on a rock.” His parents had never talked about their heritage. After his father passed away in 1977, he began researching both sides of his family. Eager to piece together information that slowly arrived in his mail box, Tom also began researching Cindy’s family history.

Like his career, which was bent on careful precision, Tom’s curiosity about their family roots sprouted a life-long hobby that also required patience and attention to detail. Though he pursued Milo’s story for forty-three years, a nagging, mysterious gap in Milo’s whereabouts between 1860 and 1868 remains, likely when Milo journeyed to Montana. Tom wonders what brought him here, probably representing a crossroads in history: westward movement after the Civil War, the Montana gold rush, a cattle drive, homesteading, or perhaps to propel President Ulysses S. Grant’s vision that Plains Indians take up agriculture as a way of life. Milo Collins Seketer may have been recruited as an example of a successful Indian farmer and stock raiser to the Crow Indians.

This is a story full of name-change challenges. A lesser researcher might have given up.



Spring 2020: Sequestration

By Rosamond Stanton

This is not our family's first emergency lockdown. The whole group of us was visiting Mont Saint Michel in France when a forgotten backpack was discovered in the heart of the building. The French, long leery of bombs, real and imagined, jumped immediately into action, locking about 200 people inside the old abbey's many halls and rooms. About an hour later we were released into the fresh air, none the worse for wear.

But that was a mere speck of time next to jumping from our self-quarantine into the governor's lockdown. Back then we knew we would be set free in time for tea, with only a distracted student the sole victim of his own undoing. Today, we are looking not only down a dark tunnel with no visible exit, but at our own future on the planet. Life will be different.

Noah had the Flood, the 14th Century produced the Black Death and two world wars devastated the 20th Century. Millions died in each of these events, yet the human race plugged on indomitably to recover and become a newer, wiser civilized world. But have we? Certainly life will change: will we be any wiser?

As far as this pandemic is concerned, trying to second guess Covid-19 is impossible. The number of cases and resulting deaths change dramatically daily, with different digits coming from the various authorities who march across the evening news. No one knows whom to believe. All we know for certain is that the entire planet is in the grip of cataclysmic plague.

My own experience thus far has been adjusting to life in lockdown. I live alone in a big old house. My family has insisted that I, at age 81 with a low functioning

immune system, must stay put, or shelter-in-place as the government calls it. They brought me food for two weeks, after which they will come again. In the meantime, it is up to me to fill in the great spaces each day represents. I cleaned out and straightened up the clutter in the basement storeroom. Three and a half bags of shredded paper await the reopening of the recycling center. My file drawers stand ready for purging and old tax records need organizing.

Every day I call one or two friends to see how they are holding up in the crisis. And there is the family. I let it be known I would like to hear from one member of our clan each day, a different person, to talk about anything that comes to mind. This plan works well.

The only outdoor exercise I get, apart from taking out the garbage and going to the mailbox, is a twenty-minute walk around Sacajawea Park in clement weather. Otherwise, a daily Pilates mat routine keeps my joints working.

For entertainment there is always an old golf match or World Series game to watch, and of course Netflix, before heading upstairs to read from a long backlog of books and then to bed. Not a remarkable agenda in anyone's book, but oddly the completion of any one of these tasks becomes a "thing," an accomplishment, something to crow softly about in one's own little bubble. These are all things which will no longer niggle on the back of my mind's "to do" list.

Update: six weeks in and my pile of 30-gallon bags of shredded paper has grown to a dozen; I have finished four books (long ones); the governor has opened the door to a gradual relaxation of the lockdown in order to get the economy moving. With this news I leaped into my car, donned my mask (freshly sewn), and made for the grocery store: a real luxury after making lists for others to check off for me. BUT when the family heard of my breakout there was a noisy rebound with all voices crisscrossing at once with opinions, advice, orders, the upshot being—DON'T DO THIS AGAIN! So I have crept back into my cage with my tail drooping, to make out a new list.

The most distressing thing about this general sequestration is that we have lost two good friends, not necessarily to Covid-19, but we feel forlorn and helpless not to have been able to see them, aid and succor them, and finally, gather to mourn them.

I don't like the term "new normal." I want normal back.

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Editor's Note: You can also contribute to our Covid-19 Project. What do you want future generations to know?

FRIENDS OF THE
YELLOWSTONE
GATEWAY MUSEUM

P.O. Box 815
118 W. CHINOOK ST.
LIVINGSTON, MT 59047

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
LIVINGSTON, MT
PERMIT NO. 96



Current Resident Or:

SOLAR & LED PROJECTS

*So far, we have saved more than 9,000 lbs of CO2 emissions—
the equivalent of planting 68 trees!*

The Yellowstone Gateway Museum recently made great strides toward energy efficiency. Joan Kresich, Yellowstone Bend Citizens Council, contacted the museum in 2019 and helped jump-start our solar project. After a successful grant proposal, OnSite Energy, Inc. installed a 19.2 kW Roof-Mount Photovoltaic Solar System on the museum's storage building in summer 2020. We flipped the switch to solar on September 29, 2020, powering the museum's electrical needs. A front-door monitor shows real-time energy savings.

This renewable generation project received funding through the *NorthWestern Energy Efficiency Plus (E+J) Renewable Energy Program*. The program is established with Universal System Benefits Program funds collected from all NorthWestern electric customers in the State of Montana.

To maximize savings, we upgraded to LED lighting fixtures and bulbs. Ben Rehmer, Total Electric of MT employee, is shown at left replacing bulbs in the museum. Staff and volunteers are enjoying the much-improved lighting, and researchers and visitors will benefit, too.

