

## THE WORDEN FAMILY IN HILLSBORO

### Part Three: The George Francis “Frank” Worden and Margaret Martin Family

By Susan Frances Worden

*Ed. Note: This is the third in a series of articles on the extensive Worden and Martin families: see also “William and Lizzie Worden” (November 2020), and “Robert ‘Bob’ Martin” (February 2021). See the author’s clarifying “Family Tree” on page 8.*



George Francis “Frank” Worden in 1935. Photo courtesy Susan Worden.



Margaret Martin Worden, also in 1935. Photo courtesy Susan Worden.

George Francis “Frank” Worden was the second of four children born to William J. Worden and Elizabeth “Lizzie” Heslin Worden in 1880 in San Marcial, New Mexico. His parents owned 320 acres just north of Arrey on the Rio Grande where they raised cattle and horses. The family moved from the Worden ranch to Hillsboro when Frank was about 6 years old so he could attend school. He went through the sixth grade and then lived at the Worden ranch and was responsible for it.

He worked as a cowboy on various ranches until 1908, when at the age of 28, he established a general mercantile business in Las Palomas, most likely in partnership with his good friend Bob Martin. Martin had a younger sister, Margaret, who visited him in New Mexico.

Bob introduced his sister to Frank Worden, and they were married October 26, 1909 by Henry Easter, Rector of the Church of St. Clement in El Paso. Before their marriage she taught school in Las Palomas.

Margaret Martin was the fourth of ten children born to Ralph Martin and Margaret Inglis Martin. She was born in 1880 near Salt Lake City, Utah. Her father, Ralph Martin, was going blind and owned a

# President's Message

**Whoopee! The Black Range Museum is once again open** Friday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Thanks to dedicated volunteers, the museum gift shop has been updated and refreshed with new sales items relevant to our area, featuring the crafts of local artisans and books and field guides too. Special thanks to Kathleen Blair and Jan Richmond for putting in the extra hours in this endeavor. Working with Garland Bills, they have upgraded the sales inventory and added some new items and signed-up some new consignees.

By taking on the job of reorganizing the gift shop, Kathleen and Jan have also renovated the look and efficiency of the shop. We are still looking for a volunteer Manager to fill this position but are grateful for the ideas and determination that these two have selflessly given to the Museum and Historical Society. Predictably, gift shop sales have been doing much better following the reorganization.

**Wahoo! We have a new website** thanks to the efforts of Nichole Trushell. Go to: [www.hillsborohistoricalociety.com](http://www.hillsborohistoricalociety.com). You will notice that we have a new look with a whole new format with great photos and content. Thanks to the Exhibit Committee, in addition to the fabulous Ladder Ranch exhibit, we have new displays in the Ranch Room that feature Angora Goat ranching and rare artifacts from the Spanish exploration of the Southwest.

I am pleased to announce our recently added **"Front Porch Talks" series of outdoor programs**, with guest Larry Tyler, a Navajo storyteller (July 10); and a talk entitled "Bison Tails of the Ladder Ranch," given by yours truly (July 31). Still in the works is Dr. Travis Perry and his Salamaderine Anvil. These events, the brainchild of you guessed it, Jan and Kathleen, have been well attended and resulted in positive acclaim. Although space and seating are limited, the porch offers a pleasant atmosphere to relax and learn about historical topics. We plan to continue these programs, so please check our website for details.

**Shazam!** Thanks to a **\$1,000 grant from the Historical Society of New Mexico**, we also have a new computer and printer in the Research Room for the purpose of archiving digital files and museum-related print work. The computer will be available for those who are researching historic content and information, and we welcome the submission of new historic images for the file.

The Board is grateful for your support throughout the pandemic period. We have strived to maintain our commitment to you by insuring that our mission to preserve the history of our area is foremost on our agenda and that your museum is functioning and growing as an important institution for archiving and presenting interesting exhibits, artifacts, photographs and information. It is a labor of love but not without its rewards. Just wait till you hear what we are working on for you next! Stay tuned and enjoy this edition of our newsletter!

-Steve Dobrott



As part of the new series of "Front Porch Talks," Navajo storyteller Larry Tyler speaks about the elders on the Black Range Museum front porch (above), and retired ranch manager Steve Dobrott tells "tails" of the Ladder Ranch (left).



Margaret Martin in 1885, age 5.  
Photo courtesy Susan Worden.

(... continued from page 1)

mercantile store. In the early 1880s the family moved east in the hope of finding a cure for Ralph's encroaching blindness. They settled on a farm in Savoy, Massachusetts, near North Adams.

In October 1893, Margaret was confirmed in St. John's Episcopal Church at 59 Sumner Street in North Adams, now known as All Saints Episcopal Church. In 1895, when Margaret was 15 years old, her father Ralph was killed in a train accident, and Margaret went to live with her Aunt Rebecca and Uncle Frank Tilton in North Adams. She lived with them until she went to New Mexico about 12 years later. Her childhood name was Dolly.

Margaret and Frank Worden had one child, Robert Francis "Bob" Worden, born October 10, 1911 in El Paso two years after their marriage. He was named for his uncle Bob Martin. According to the 1910 census, Frank

and Margaret were living at the time in Las Palomas with her sister, Finis, on Las Cruces Avenue. Frank worked as a merchant in a mercantile company, and Finis was teaching school. Frank was working for himself, and they owned their home free of any mortgage.

In 1912, Frank accepted a position as manager of a mercantile company at Canutillo, Texas, just outside of El Paso, and moved his family there from Las Palomas. During World War I Frank was engaged in the contracting business, and bought hay for the army, using horses and mules to transport it. He was also engaged in construction of a school, while the Worden family of three lived in the house that was to be the home of the principal. Family transportation was a horse and buggy.

In the summer of 1916 Margaret and young Bob went to Santa Monica, California, to visit her sister Finis, traveling by railroad. About this time, according to Bob Worden, the family suffered a devastating fire.



Bob Worden in 1914, age 3.  
Photo courtesy Susan Worden.

After the school in Canutillo was finished, the family lived at three different farms, all nearby. On his draft registration card in Las Cruces in 1918, Frank said he was a farmer, and his address was the Canutillo Post Office. He was of medium height and build.

On March 15, 1919, Frank received a land patent for 320 acres out of the Land Office at Roswell, New Mexico, under the Homestead Act of 1862. Then on January 8, 1921, he received a patent for an additional 320 acres. His brother-in-law, William H. Martin, received a patent for 310 acres nearby in October 1919. This land was probably the 900 acres they farmed in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Bob Worden wrote of his memories of the war and succeeding years. As he recalled,

I remember the severe influenza epidemic in the winter of 1917 - 1918. They turned the school at Canutillo into a sort of hospital, and my father was there for a while. I made several trips from our farm on a great big bay horse, which I couldn't possibly get on without help, with two gallon milk cans tied to the saddle horn, one on either side, and was told to make Dick walk all the way to Canutillo, because they didn't want to churn the milk into



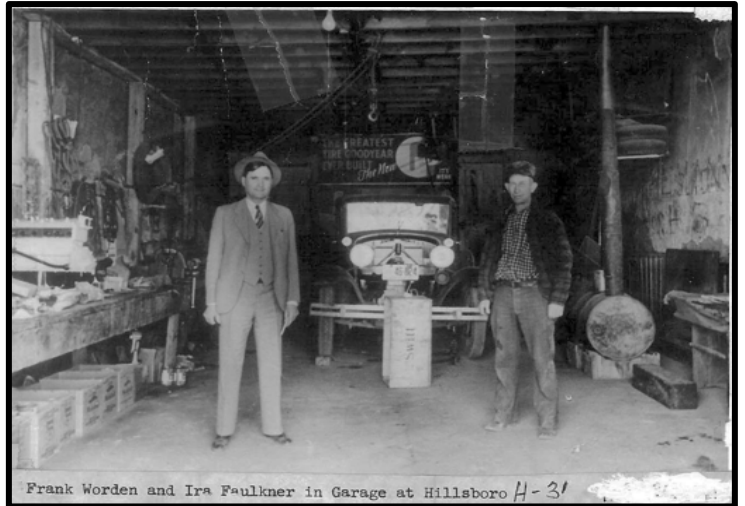
Margaret Martin in 1896, age 16. She sent this photo to her brother Bob Martin when he was working on the Bell Ranch as a teen in New Mexico.  
Photo courtesy Susan Worden.



butter ... I also well remember the celebration of November 11, 1918, Armistice night. I can still remember the fireworks.

According to the 1920 census, the family of three was then in La Union. They were living next door to Margaret's brother, William Martin, and his wife and two children. Both families were renting their homes, and the two men were working as farm laborers. In the summer of 1920, Margaret and young Bob went by train to Indiana and Massachusetts to visit her sisters. Bob Worden's memoir continues,

In 1920 in the summer, my mother took me on a trip back East .... About this time we acquired our first automobile .... In the fall of 1921 we drove it to Santa Monica, California. I was in the sixth grade at the time .... Dad bought me my first bicycle. I can still see it. Of course this led immediately to a paper route. My route included the elite part of town on the south rim of Santa Monica canyon. One of my customers was the famous Western movie star Tom Mix. He was always good for a big tip on collection day at the end of the month. I also delivered for two different drugstores at one point. This was a better job than the paper route business.



Frank Worden and Ira Faulkner in the Hillsboro garage, c. 1921, now the site of the weekly Farmers Market.

Photo courtesy Susan Worden.

Bob's grandfather, William J. Worden, was then living in the National Home for Disabled Veterans in Sawtelle. He had enlisted in the Union Army in Minnesota in 1862. His Regiment fought in the Indian Wars in 1862 and 1863, including the Battle of Big Mound in North Dakota. In June 1864 his regiment was ordered to Morganza, Louisiana, near Baton Rouge. By the end of October 1864, the Regiment was stationed in the Port of Brazos Santiago, Texas, located on Brazos Island at the southeastern tip of Texas. William Worden mustered out of the Army in March 1866 as a Brevet Captain in Brownsville, Texas. While living in Santa Monica, Bob was able to visit his grandfather in Sawtelle, as he describes:

This is when I met my grandfather, because I could ride up to Sawtelle, which was only about two or three miles from where we lived, and spend an hour with him and ride back home. My grandmother also lived by herself at that time not too far from us .... The beach was great. I enjoyed it, and I learned to swim quite well. Also, I started learning to drive the car. In those days there was no such thing as a driver's license, so I started learning about age 12 or 13.

One can only imagine the tales William Worden told his young grandson about the Indian Wars and the Civil War, possibly leading to Bob Worden's interest in the military and later, a career in the US Air Force. His memoir continues:

In 1925 we returned to New Mexico. Dad and Uncle Bill bought about 900 acres which included the old homestead just north of Arrey, New Mexico.

Mother, determined that I was to get a good education, took an apartment in El Paso and put me in high school in the El Paso High School.

During the summers of 1926 and 1927, I worked on the farm. We had about 30 head of horses and mules that were draft animals to pull wagons, binders, and so forth. Because we had so many horses and mules to feed, we had an 80 acre oat field. One of my jobs, especially in late summer, was to cut that 80 acre field of oats with a McCormick Deering binder. It was pulled by

two mules and a horse with an equalizer arrangement. The mules gave no trouble, but old Tom was the meanest horse I ever encountered. Apart from that, I had two horses of my own, a couple of guns, a 410 shotgun and a 22 rifle, hundreds of jack rabbits, and a lot of cottontail rabbits as well. I kept the table pretty well supplied with cottontail rabbits. I liked fried rabbit much better than fried chicken. As a matter of fact, that's where I lost my taste for chicken, because on Sunday, occasionally an itinerant preacher would show up. It would be my job to go out and catch a couple of chickens and chop their heads off, pluck them and dress them .... The house we lived in had Chick Sale [outdoor privy] accommodations, and no plumbing or electricity....

In 1928 times were booming. The price of copper was 25 cents a pound. The starting wage rate at the Nevada Consolidated Copper Company concentrate mill at Hurley, New Mexico was \$4.00 for an eight hour day. I got a job right away as a steelworker's helper. On top of that I managed to become a member of the volunteer fire department and thereby got my room free. We worked seven days a week. After a couple of months, the shop foreman discovered I had taken solid geometry in high school. The tinsmith and tin shop needed a helper, so there I found myself as a tinsmith's helper. It certainly beat sitting on an I beam 60 feet above a concrete floor, bucking rivets with a 60 pound dolly bar. There was still more luck. They decided to replace all the flues in the company owned houses. Of course this went to the tin shop, so I found myself working 13 hours and 20 minutes a day, five days a week, and eight hours the other two. I was coining money hand over fist. The company mess was \$30.00 a month for that and my work clothes ....

In August of 1929 I returned home with about \$2,000, a magnificent sum in those days. I had selected Texas A & M and had been accepted. I just simply told my parents and away I went. I changed majors three times during my freshman year from architecture to civil engineering to chemical engineering. The summer of 1930 I worked as a carpenter for three months on the high school in Truth or Consequences.

After struggling to earn a living farming and ranching in the arid climate of southern New Mexico, Frank Worden turned to politics and was elected tax assessor of Sierra County in the fall of 1930. Bob Worden's memoir continues,

That fall Dad was elected tax assessor of Sierra County and he and mother moved from the farm to Hillsboro. The summer of 1931 I helped Dad compile the taxes and so on in his office ....

In late 1932 they built a small power house in Hillsboro [now the home of Barbara Pearlman and David Farrell – *Ed.*]. By early 1933 there was electricity for the first time, at least in our homes in New Mexico. The first thing we did with it? Got rid of the kerosene lamps. This is also when we acquired the first radio ....

In 1936, Frank was elected to the first of 2 two year terms as State Land Commissioner, running as a Roosevelt Democrat. Frank and Margaret lived in a house near the Capitol and the Plaza in Santa Fe, at 410 Don Gaspar Avenue. While he was Land Commissioner, he served on the State Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and the Carey Act Land Board. His office was on the first floor of the Capitol annex.

Frank Worden died January 14, 1941, at age 60, as result of a car accident while en route to Artesia to start a new job at the local conservation office, a division of the state land office. His second term as Land Commissioner had expired December 31, 1940. His wife and his best friend, Benjamin Luchini, made it to his bedside before he died. By then Luchini was Chairman of the state Democratic Party. According to Bob Worden, the Party planned to run Frank Worden as the Democratic nominee for Governor in 1940.

His funeral was held at the Baptist Church in Hot Springs [now Truth or Consequences], near Hillsboro, because that was the largest church available for the large crowd who attended, with burial at the Hillsboro Community Cemetery. Frank M. King wrote this article about Frank Worden in the *Western Livestock Journal* upon learning of his passing:

My good friend, Robert Martin, former New Mexico cattle ranchman, has just sent me notice of the death of that grand native New Mexico cattleman Frank Worden in an auto wreck. He died Tuesday, the 7th of January and was buried January 11<sup>th</sup> .... Frank Worden was born at Fort Craig, New Mexico and grew up at historic old Hillsboro, N.M. where he attended school and where he made his home. He was engaged in the cattle business most of his adult life. He was 60 years old when he passed on. He was en route from Las Cruces to Artesia, riding alone, when his car overturned and rolled over several times. He was unconscious when picked up some four hours later by John Teel, a rancher, and taken to the Artesia hospital, where he regained consciousness for a time, but could give no reason for the accident. His wife, Margarite [*sic*] Martin Worden, arrived from Hot Springs a few minutes before he passed away and was with him at the end. Death was apparently caused by shock and exposure. He had no visible injuries.

Frank Worden was buried in the little cemetery on the Mesa overlooking his old home in the historic old town of Hillsboro. Services were conducted by George Cook of Socorro, who read the Masonic Committal service. A church service had been conducted by Rev. Hunter [“Preacher”] Lewis at Hot Springs. A writer in the El Paso Times had the following paragraph in his story from Hillsboro: “In death Frank Worden was again back home on the range which rolls away toward the Rio Grande, where he once rode with the late Eugene Manlove Rhodes, famous cowboy author .... Among the mourners stood Gov. John E. Miles, just up from a sick bed, who braved the chill of January weather to honor, by his presence, one whom he had characterized as the most steadfast and faithful of friends he ever had.

There were present other high officials and friends in every walk of life from all over the Southwest. No man in New Mexico was better known, nor was more universally loved. He was strictly a product of the Rio Grande, a real cowpuncher. Spoke Spanish like a native. He had the happy faculty of seeing the humorous and ridiculous side of everything first, a sort of Will Rogers type, and in the same way he loved all folks.

Capt. Robert F. Worden, of the U.S. Army Air Corps, only son of Frank Worden and Margaret Martin Worden, whom he married in 1909, arrived at Fort Bliss from California and arrived at Artesia to be with his mother. Also arrived to be with Mrs. Worden were her brothers, Robert Martin of Costa Mesa, California; Will Martin of Canutillo; Ralph Martin of Rube Pankey's ranch, and a sister, Mrs. Finis Monteith of California. Other survivors, besides his wife, Margarite, and son Robert F. Worden, are Capt. Worden's wife and their young daughter, Carol; a brother, Bill Worden of Hobbs, N.M., and one sister, Mrs. Helen M. Wood of Los Angeles.

Frank Worden was part of the history of New Mexico, cattle, industrial, civic, political, and was a man who would do to take along. The salt of the earth. I join his many friends in extending sympathies to the bereaved family.”

A monument of a riderless horse was erected on his grave with the inscription “Marcho Adelante” [Go Forward] and “Erected to the memory of Frank Worden by his many friends of the old range.”



After her husband's death, Margaret Martin Worden lived in Hillsboro until her death. She became friends with Sadie Orchard when they were both living in Hillsboro in the 1930s and early 1940s. Sadie's will was signed April 17, 1941 and included the following bequest: “I give and bequeath to Mrs. Margarite [*sic*] M Worden, such pieces of my china, of which I may die possessed, to be selected by her.” Margaret Martin Worden died in El Paso in January 1942 at age 62, and Sadie Orchard died in April 1943 at age 84. [Margaret is buried next to her husband in the Hillsboro Cemetery, as is his mother, Elizabeth Worden. – *Ed.*]

Monument for Frank Worden in the Hillsboro Cemetery, with the inscription “Marcho Adelante”.

Photo Joe Britton.

Meanwhile, Frank and Margaret's son Bob Worden had graduated from Texas A & M in 1933 with a degree in chemical engineering. During the Depression, there were few jobs available, so as he wrote:

In early 1933 there simply weren't any jobs available, at least not for me. A classmate of mine who was crazy about flying discovered he was not going to graduate and persuaded me to send in the application for a flying cadet appointment that he had requested from the Army .... My flying school class had about 135 members .... My roommate Dave Desmond, was from Massachusetts. He lived too far away ... to go home for Christmas, so I invited him to come home with me. He was literally open mouthed most of the time, especially the night we were invited into a Spanish friend's home and had real Mexican food and the chili was pretty hot.

We returned to Randolph Field [near San Antonio] to complete our Basic Stage training by February .... Shortly after we moved over to Kelly Field [also near San Antonio], Joe Snyder, a classmate, introduced me to Bobbie. I was smitten. I dated her as often as I could those four months including our Graduation Ball.

During the course of Advanced Stage training, one of the things we had to do was to fly an overnight cross country. We flew to El Paso and spent the night. Mother and Dad came down to see their son land an airplane. I think after meeting some of my classmates, they began to accept the fact that their son was in the military and was going to try to stay there. They came down for graduation and met Bobbie while they were there. I told them I was going to marry her ...

On Christmas Day 1935 Bob married Laurine Julia Virginia "Bobbie" Lambrecht from San Antonio. She was a fourth generation Texan, a descendant of the Germans who came to the Texas hill country in the 1840s. They were married in St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Grayson Street in San Antonio. They raised three children together, and he had a distinguished career in the US Air Force, retiring in 1964 as a Major General. During World War II, in his words,



Bob Worden as a young pilot in 1934. Photo courtesy Susan Worden.

Eventually I received orders overseas to Italy to the Fifteenth Air Force .... I wound up as operations officer for the 49th Bomb Wing which was a B24 outfit .... The War was over in May of 1945 insofar as Europe was concerned. I got the job of closing all of the air bases in Italy and sending the units back to the United States for re-equipment. The headquarters of the 49th Bomb Wing was retained with me as its commander.

He was assigned to SHAPE headquarters in Paris in the early 1950s and to Taiwan in the early 1960s. His last assignment was as Deputy Director of War Plans for the US Air Force. He participated in briefing General Curtis LeMay before all JCS meetings, and sometimes he attended JCS meetings. During the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, as Deputy Director of War Plans for the Air Force, he lived at the Pentagon for several weeks. He retired from the Air Force in August 1964.

Bob and Laurine then moved to Columbus, Georgia where he served as Vice President of Columbus Bank and Trust until he retired for a second time at age 65. His beloved wife Bobbie died in 1980, and he became reacquainted with Georgia Dines Hale of Hillsboro. They had dated in

Hillsboro in the early 1930s. Her husband Embree Hale died in 1982 and Bob and Georgia were married in 1983.

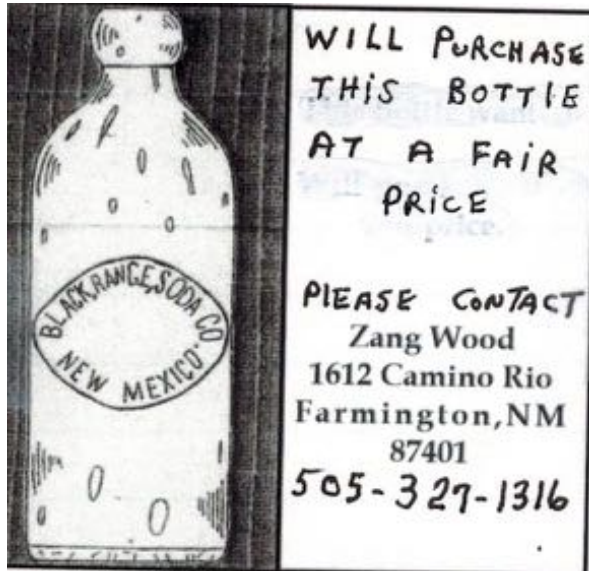
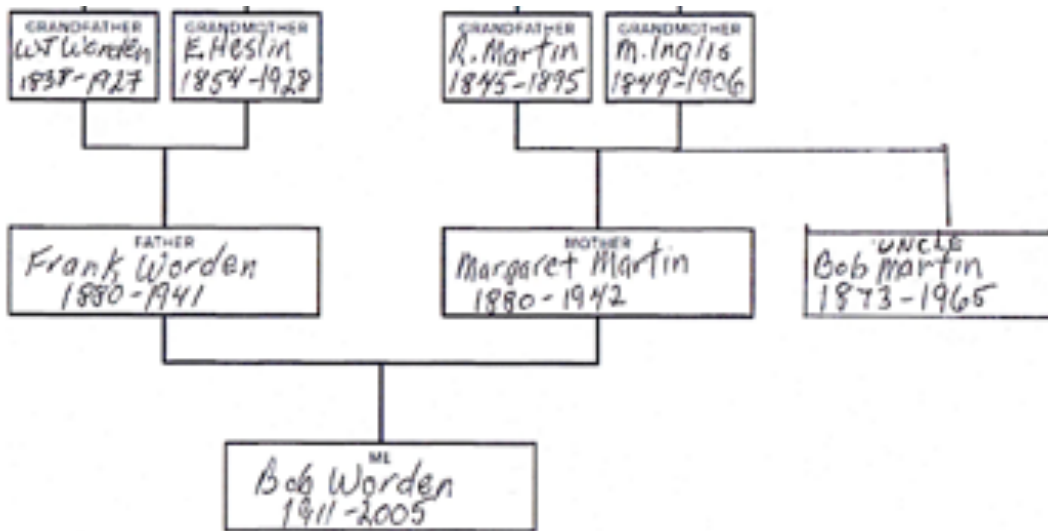


Maj. Gen. Bob Worden in 1964. His daughter Susan described him as "very handsome, always positive and with great people skills." Photo courtesy Susan Worden.

Bob enjoyed his retirement years in Hillsboro with Georgia. As he described it, "We travel a good bit, read a lot, but, mostly, we enjoy the timeless serenity and beauty of the hills and mountains around us." Georgia and Bob lived in Hillsboro until they moved to Air Force Village in San Antonio in 1989. Georgia died in 1993 and is buried in the Hillsboro Community Cemetery. Bob Worden died in 2005 at age 94. He is buried in Parkhill Cemetery in Columbus, Georgia next to his first wife and their oldest daughter Carol.

*This concludes this series of articles about the three generations of Wordens who lived in Hillsboro at various times from the 1880s through the 1980s. To the author, the great granddaughter of William and Lizzie Heslin Worden, it is a very inspiring story of a pioneer family of the Old West.*

**FAMILY TREE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE WORDEN FAMILY**  
*featured in this series, as provided by the author*



*For an idea of why these bottles might be of interest, see Bill Lockhart, "Soda Bottling in the Black Range," in the August 2011 newsletter. – Ed.*



# THE KELLEY CLAN OF SIERRA COUNTY

By Connie Fairfield Ganz

*(Excerpted from her 2020 book about Kelley's talented grandson, J.P. Kelley: Cowboy Artist. See "Books of Local Interest" in the February 2021 newsletter.)*



Kingston Cemetery photo courtesy of Philip Alan Photography.  
[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com). Used by permission.

In the lonesome Kingston Cemetery just off Hwy. 152, Andrew Kelley and his wife, Cecilia (Sheppard) Kelley, are buried, along with one of their children. A biographical sketch of Andrew Kelley published in 1907 says he came to New Mexico as a member of Company B, Fifteenth Regiment of United States regulars. He had enlisted in the Army in 1867 at Cleveland, Ohio, and was stationed at Fort McRae (in Sierra County). He served for three years at that point, and after his retirement from military service he was employed in the Indian department from 1870 until 1882.<sup>1</sup>

Andrew Kelley's 1919 obituary similarly claimed, "He came to New Mexico in the late 60's and was stationed at various military posts in southwestern New Mexico."<sup>2</sup> Also according to the obituary, he was "a native of Canada," born April 7, 1847, in Quebec City, Canada, and "came to the U.S. as a young man."

Andrew Kelley was employed as an Indian agent when he married Cecilia Sheppard in 1875. Cecilia, a novice nun, attended Loretto Academy (Santa Fe) in the early 1870s up until shortly before September 12, 1875, when she married Andrew at Fort Craig, New Mexico, age 16. Most likely, she met him while she was visiting her family stationed at the fort. Her father, Luther Sheppard, was a soldier there, but he was killed at the Battle of Valverde in 1861. Later, her widowed mother (Maria Malloy) married another soldier, Francis O'Rourke. The Sheppard and O'Rourke families traveled to various military outposts during Cecilia's childhood.

By 1880, Andrew (age 33) and Cecilia Kelley (age 21) were residing in Cañada Alamosa, Socorro County, New Mexico Territory. Their first child, Francis William Kelley, was born there August 18, 1887. A second child, Mary Ellen Kelley was born May 1, 1879, at Caliente, Socorro County, and died at Cañada Alamosa April 16, 1880.

In June of 1880, Cecilia was expecting her third child and traveled 150 miles to stay with her mother, stationed in El Paso (possibly at Fort Franklin) during the confinement. Cecilia Rose "Issie" Kelley



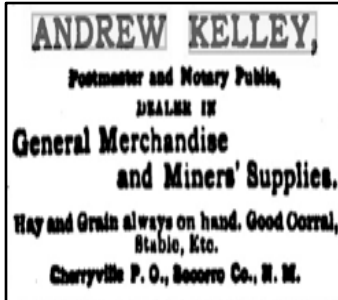
Andrew Kelley. Photo courtesy of  
[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

<sup>1</sup> *History of New Mexico, Its Resources and People*, Volume II, Pacific States Publishing Co., 1907. p. 761. [books.google.com](http://books.google.com).

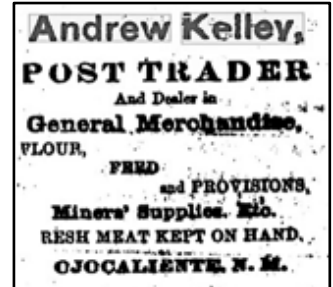
<sup>2</sup> *Sierra County Advocate*. March 28, 1919. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com).

was born there June 14, 1880, and christened at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Ysleta, El Paso County, Texas on September 14, 1880.<sup>3</sup> Cecilia and her daughter returned to New Mexico shortly thereafter.

The 1880 census supports the claim that Andrew Kelley was no longer employed as an Indian agent and was instead self-employed as a “clerk in store.” Newspaper ads verify that Kelley was operating a trading post at Fort Ojo Caliente.<sup>4</sup> A second ad for Andrew Kelley’s store (pictured below) was published a year later.<sup>5</sup>



Cherryville, the town noted in one ad, was the civilian portion of Fort Ojo Caliente. It was located about 14 miles northwest of Cañada Alamosa (later called Monticello). Andrew Kelley’s trading post at Cherryville closed shortly after the fort was decommissioned in 1882, but ads for his store at Cherryville continued into the spring of 1883. Only the crumbling walls of the fort remain today.



In 1880, only about 300 people were enumerated at Cañada Alamosa, and Kelley played a pivotal role there in the U.S. military conflict with Apache leader Victorio, as documented in several historical accounts.

Bureau of Land Management General Land Office records verify that Kelley homesteaded in New Mexico and secured several land patents. The earliest patent, perfected (paid off) in 1890, was for 160 acres at Cañada Alamosa, Socorro County, New Mexico. The land description is as follows: “The northwest quarter of Section 10 in Township 9 South of Range 7 West of New Mexico Meridian in New Mexico Territory containing one hundred and sixty acres.” The geographical location of the Kelley land patent is near Monticello Canyon, and Alamosa Creek runs through there.

In 1884, a notice in the local newspaper confirmed Andrew Kelley registered his claim in February of that year at the land office in Las Cruces, New Mexico.<sup>6</sup> It was not uncommon for such claims to take several years to be processed. While living at Cañada Alamosa, Andrew and Cecilia (Sheppard) Kelley’s fourth child, Agnes “Aggie” Kelley, was born at Fort Ojo Caliente, New Mexico, on March 26, 1882.

Dominating the news in the spring of 1883 at Cañada Alamosa (a.k.a. Cañada de Alamosa) was a debate over water rights, involving the Andrew Kelley ranch:

The residents of Cañada de Alamosa town are in a peck of trouble. Messrs. [Andrew] Kelley and Dodds above them on the creek have taken what water they need for the cultivation of their land from the stream, and this has left the Mexicans without water for their crops. The residents of the Cañada are up in arms and nightly meetings are being held to resolute against this, to them death dealing innovation ... As it is, already this season water has been so scarce that the crops at the town are severely injured and there is likely to be a starving people there next fall and winter. The affair is very likely to end in bloodshed as a similar case in Lincoln County at Tularosa did two years ago when deputy sheriff Padilla and others were killed.<sup>7</sup>

On May 25, 1883, the *Black Range* newspaper reported Andrew Kelley was arrested and taken before the Mexican *alcalde* at Cañada Alamosa, “charged with taking water from the Cañada creek on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May.” The article reprinted on the following page provides an introduction to the matter.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Texas Births and Christenings 1840-1981. [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

<sup>4</sup> *Socorro Miner*. October 14, 1881

<sup>5</sup> *The Black Range*. Robinson, Socorro County, N.M., Dec. 29, 1882. [Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov).

<sup>6</sup> *Black Range*. March 7, 1884. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)

<sup>7</sup> *Black Range*. May 11, 1883. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)

<sup>8</sup> *Black Range*. May 25, 1883. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)

A subsequent article in the same newspaper a couple weeks later revealed that “Andrew Kelley returned from Albuquerque this week where he has been engaged in consulting Judge Bell and other legal lights regarding the difficulties on Cañada de Alamosa creek. The judge told him to go ahead and cultivate his land and to pay no attention to the Mexicans.”<sup>9</sup>

The fifth child of Andrew and Cecilia (Sheppard) Kelley, Martin Luther Kelley, was born August 3, 1883, at Socorro County,

Andrew Kelly of Ojo Caliente, states that in his opinion the Canada de Alamosa valley is the finest producing locality in this section. On the 3d instant, his family was increased by the arrival of a son of nine pounds and eleven ounces weight, and on the 9th Frank M. Dodds became the father of a healthy daughter, while another party is yet to be heard from. The proof given would seem to settle all dispute as to the fertility of Caliente creek as well as the ability of the settlers there to get the best results therefrom.

New Mexico. His birth was announced in the *Black Range* newspaper on August 17, 1883 (at left). The article also references the water rights controversy in the region. Imagine the friendly persuasion it must have taken for Andrew Kelley to convince his Catholic wife to name their son after a Protestant Reformation leader!

Mexican justice is wonderful in its conception and attributes. Andrew Kelley was arrested and taken before the Mexican alcalde at Canada de Alamosa last week, charged with taking water from the Canada creek on the 4th of May. Mr. K. proved that he used no water on that date, but the judge said that if he did not take it that day he did some other day, and consequently fined him ten dollars and costs. Upon Mr. Kelley's giving notice that he would take an appeal to the district court, the justice averred that there was no opportunity for an appeal, that there was no higher court for such cases. Mr. Kelley paid his fine and four dollars costs and has gone to Socorro to see what he can do in the premises.

A flattering article about Andrew Kelley's ranch at Cañada Alamosa was published in the *Black Range* in 1884:

One of the very finest of the small ranches of this section of the country is that owned and occupied by Andrew Kelley, located on Cañada de Alamosa creek about four miles below Ojo Caliente. Andrew was an early resident of this country and as may be supposed he did not choose a hand-me-down piece when he had his pick of the entire country. The creek runs a good strong stream lengthwise of his land which constitutes as pretty a little valley as is often seen. To the east of him the huge canyons lead off into the San Mateo mountains and westward the Cuchillo Negro range pulls away in a modest, gentle manner, each direction evidently striving to grow better and more luxurious grasses than its opposite neighbor. Kelley is farming by his own hands, and by lease, a good portion of the valley and his assurance of good crops is all that can be desired, yet, he is not entirely happy. Competent judges say that two thousand head of cattle would do nicely on the grass and water that he can provide, and he is looking for some man with a herd of about this size with whom he can pool issues. Such a man will find Kelley an excellent partner.<sup>10</sup>

For unknown reasons, the Kelley family moved from Cañada Alamosa (a.k.a. Monticello) to Chloride, Sierra County, New Mexico in 1886. A variety of sources indicate the family continued to live in Chloride for the next several years.<sup>11</sup> Joining the family six months after their move to Chloride was third son (and sixth child), John Constantine Kelley, born June 14, 1887.

Andrew Kelley and family of Monticello were visiting friends in Chloride this week. Mr. Kelley is soon to become a resident of Chloride, he having already rented the Keiler house on Terrace row.

When the Kelley family arrived in Chloride, it was several years after the silver boom started there but before the bust that occurred five years later, as noted in the town overview, below.

<sup>9</sup> *Black Range*. June 1, 1883. www.newspapers.com.

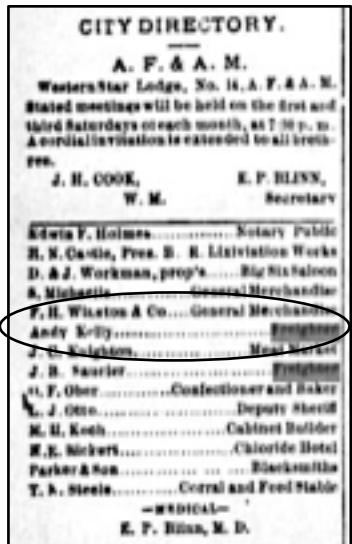
<sup>10</sup> *Black Range*. May 2, 1884. www.newspapers.com

<sup>11</sup> *Black Range*. November 12, 1886. www.newspapers.com.

The 11 residents of **Chloride New Mexico** live in what's essentially a former ghost town. It sprung up in 1880, two years after Briton Harry Pye chanced upon silver ore, a discovery he initially kept secret. Word eventually got out, prompting a boom. Chloride, in its heyday, had nine saloons, a general store, a dry goods store, a millinery shop, a restaurant, a butcher shop, a candy store, a pharmacy, a Chinese laundry, a photography studio, a school, and two hotels. The *Black Range* newspaper was printed in Chloride from 1882 to 1896. The demise of Chloride began with the Silver Panic of 1893 and was hastened by the presidential election of 1896, which resulted in a drastic decline in silver prices. Today, many of Chloride's original structures still stand. The old Pioneer Store is a museum; next door the former Monte Cristo Saloon and Dance Hall houses a gift shop and gallery featuring local artists.<sup>12</sup>

Exactly what Andrew Kelley did initially to earn a living in Chloride from 1886 to 1888 is unclear. On January 14, 1888, he was appointed Justice of the Peace there to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of John H. Cook, Precinct 11. Kelley served out the term to year-end.<sup>13</sup> A few months later, he was appointed a member of the Board of Appraisers by the Chloride town trustees.<sup>14</sup> On the same date, he was listed in a newspaper ad as secretary of the Western Star Lodge, A.F. & A.M. (Ancient Free & Accepted Masons) No. 14 in Chloride.

The local *Black Range* newspaper confirmed that in 1888 the three oldest Kelley children — Frank (11), Cecilia Rose (8), and Agnes “Aggie” (6) Kelley — were students at Chloride School.<sup>15</sup> In 1889 and 1892, Andrew “Andy” Kelley’s occupation was noted as freighter in the Chloride city directory, published in the *Black Range* newspaper. His bio sketch indicated “he has been interested in mining to a greater or less extent since leaving the Indian department,” which supports the theory he was transporting goods to and from the silver mines around Chloride. Such overland freighting was often very profitable, but subsided quickly with the coming of the railroads and automobiles.<sup>16</sup>



Andrew and Cecilia (Sheppard) Kelley’s seventh and last child, Philip Sheridan Kelley, was born April 27, 1890, in Chloride. From this, we know the Kelley family was still living there through 1890. By 1892, the family had moved to Kingston, New Mexico, probably due to the economic bust at Chloride around that time. Andrew’s wife died September 30, 1892, at Kingston, age 33. She was buried at the Kingston Cemetery. The cause of death is unknown, and no obituary has been found.



Headstone of Cecilia Shepperd [sic] Kelley, Kingston Cemetery. Photo courtesy of rubbertrampartist.com

Cecilia Kelley’s death left Andrew Kelley a widower with six children to raise, ranging from ages 2 to 15. Two years after their mother’s death in 1892, siblings Cecilia and Agnes “Aggie” Kelley attended school in Santa Fe, probably at Loretto Academy.<sup>17</sup> Since it

was 250 miles from Kingston to Santa Fe, it is almost certain the girls boarded there during their attendance. Also in 1894, Andrew Kelley ran for the Sierra County assessor position and lost. Two years

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.sierracountynewmexico.info/attractions/chloride-new-mexico/>

<sup>13</sup> *Sierra County Advocate*. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)

<sup>14</sup> *Black Range*. May 25, 1888. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)

<sup>15</sup> *Black Range*, March 9, 1888. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)

<sup>16</sup> *History of New Mexico*, p. 761.

<sup>17</sup> “Kingston News,” *Sierra County Advocate*, August 10, 1894.



later, he ran again and won. "In 1896 Mr. Kelley was elected to the office of county assessor, and by re-election was continued in the position for ten years."<sup>18</sup>

Sometime around or shortly before his 1896 election as assessor of Sierra County, Andrew Kelley and his family moved 9 miles away from Kingston to Hillsboro, the county seat until it was moved to Hot Springs, a.k.a. Truth or Consequences, in 1938. Exactly where the Kelly family lived in Hillsboro is unclear, but the 1900 census offers some clues. Pictured at right is a listing of Sierra County officers in 1897, a year after his election.<sup>19</sup>

Sierra County Officers.		
Francisco Bojorques. Robert West. John E. Wheeler	} Co. Commissioners.	
Julian Chavez.....		Probate Judge.
Thos. C. Hall.....		Probate Clerk.
August Reinhardt.....	Sheriff.	
Andrew Kelley.....	Assessor.	
Will M. Robins.....	Treasurer.	
August Mayer.....	Supt. of Schools.	
Manuel Stapleton.....	Colonel.	

—Mr. W. A. Sheperd and Miss Agnes Kelley, two very popular young people of Hillsboro, will be married this Saturday evening in this place. Miss Kelley is the charming daughter of County Assessor Andrew Kelley, and a favorite in society circles, while Mr. Sheperd is a prosperous young stockman who numbers his friends by the thousand. A grand ball will be given at K. of P. Hall on the same evening in honor of the occasion. Everybody is invited to attend.

In December of 1897, Agnes Kelley was the first of Andrew and Cecilia Kelley's children to be married. A marriage announcement (at left) appeared in the local newspaper, on Friday December 10. It indicates the wedding was to take place on Saturday (December 11, 1897). The groom was William Alfred "W.A." or "Al" Sheppard.<sup>20</sup> Kelley family memoirs note that W.A. Sheppard was not related to Agnes Kelley's maternal grandfather, Luther Sheppard.

Four months later, on April 10, 1898, tragedy struck the Kelley family when his eldest child Francis "Frank" W. Kelley,

Word reaches the Hualapai that Frank Kelley and a Mexican both employed at the Confidence Mine at Mogollon, indulged in a pistol duel which resulted in the death of both men. Frank Kelley's father is highly respected Assessor of Sierra County.

21, was killed, according to several news reports, including the one reprinted at right from the *Deming Highlight*.<sup>21</sup> Another article offers further insight into the circumstances leading up to Frank Kelley's death. It also names the man Frank Kelley shot and killed, Carlos Navarro.<sup>22</sup> Based on the above articles, apparently Frank Kelley was buried where he died, in Mogollon, Catron County, New Mexico, which is about 130 miles northwest of Hillsboro. However, no burial record or headstone has been located.

In the 1900 U.S. Federal Census, Andrew "Andy" Kelley (age 53) was enumerated as the head of household at Hillsboro, Sierra County, New Mexico Territory. His teenage children, along with his married daughter and son-in-law, resided with him. Kelley resigned as assessor in 1906 "because he had moved with his family to Socorro County." His son Martin L. Kelley was appointed by the governor to complete his father's term in Sierra County, confirming his residency there that year.<sup>23</sup>

Andrew Kelley's 1907 bio sketch adds the following comment about the move, also indicating his ranching activity in Sierra County: "He has resigned the office of assessor of Sierra County, and is at present residing in Paraje, Socorro County, engaged in the mercantile business [and] became connected with mining in Shandon district ... but is now giving his attention more largely to ranching, having taken up a homestead below Elephant Butte dam, where his farming and stock-raising interests are being carefully managed and are resulting in the acquirement of a gratifying success."<sup>24</sup>

The gold rush at Shandon likely influenced Andrew Kelley's decision to operate a mercantile at Paraje. Yet he also filed a 160-acre homestead claim further south on the west side of the Rio Grande River, in Sierra County, just north of what is known today as Caballo Lake. The land patent was perfected (paid

<sup>18</sup> *History of New Mexico*, p. 761.

<sup>19</sup> *Black Range*. February 19, 1897. www.newspapers.com

<sup>20</sup> *Sierra County Advocate*. December 10, 1897. https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/

<sup>21</sup> *Deming Headlight*. April 14, 1898. www.newspapers.com

<sup>22</sup> *Silver City Enterprise*. April 15, 1898. Silver City Library, New Mexico.

<sup>23</sup> *Santa Fe New Mexican*. April 14, 1906. www.newspapers.com

<sup>24</sup> *History of New Mexico*, p. 761.

in 1913.<sup>25</sup> The Kelley Ranch was located 50 miles south of Kelley's 1890 land patent at Cañada Alamosa. Affirming the land's early ownership by Andrew Kelley, the North Kelly Canyon and South Kelly Canyon still bear Andrew's surname, albeit misspelled. Twelve miles north is Truth or Consequences (location of Elephant Butte Dam), and 20 miles to the west is the Hillsboro.

In the 1910 U.S. Federal Census, only Andrew's youngest child, Phillip S. Kelley, was recorded as still residing with him at Hillsboro. Andrew Kelley was employed as the Sierra County Clerk in 1910, and son Philip listed his occupation as stockman, probably an indication that Andrew Kelley was still involved with his ranch near Caballo Lake. Interestingly, Philip S. Kelley was also the enumerator of the Sierra County 1910 census, presumably hired by his father. The census further reveals Andrew Kelley was renting his residence in Hillsboro, which was described as a house rather than a farm.

On March 22, 1918, Andrew Kelley passed away in Kingston, New Mexico, and (as noted earlier) is buried at Kingston Cemetery, near his wife. He was 70 years old. Andrew Kelley's obituary was published in the *Sierra County Advocate*, transcribed below.

**Kelley, March 28, 1919** – Another pioneer has passed over the Great Divide. Andrew Kelley. One of the best known and respected citizens of Sierra county died at an early hour Saturday morning at the home of his son Phillip S. Kelley. His death was not unexpected by his close friends, his illness dating back several years. The funeral was conducted under the auspice of Kingston Lodge No. 16, A.F. & A.M., of which he was a member. Funeral service was conducted at the home of his son Monday afternoon. The remains were taken to Kingston under Masonic escort and interred in the cemetery there beside the remains of Mrs. Kelley whose death preceded that of Mr. Kelley many years ... For many years he served as county assessor and county clerk, retiring from the latter office two years ago last fall. He is survived by five children, Mrs. Charles A. Anderson, Mrs. Al Sheppard, Lieutenant Martin L. Kelley, John C. Kelley, and Phillip S. Kelley, all of whom were present at the funeral. Owing to a delay dispatch Lieutenant Kelley did not arrive here until Saturday. The family of the deceased have the heartfelt sympathy of the community in the hour of their bereavement.

Other Kelley family members buried at Kingston Cemetery include Agnes (Kelley) Sheppard, who died March 16, 1940, and her husband, William "Al" Sheppard (d. 1934). Their son, William Alfred Sheppard, is also buried there, age 27 (d. 1927). Andrew Kelley's grown children got married, and most of them moved away from Sierra County.

While living in Hillsboro, son Phillip "Pat" Kelley met and married Lena Richardson. They had three children born in Hillsboro: Kenneth, Phillip Jr., and daughter Cecilia (died in infancy), but the family moved away around 1920 for employment. Andrew's son John C. Kelley married Blanche Lemmons in Hillsboro in 1907 and had two children (Mary Lucille Kelley and Martin Andrew Kelley) while living in the area. John worked as a ranger in Deming, Luna County, around 1910, and as a cattle inspector in Tierra Blanca, Sierra County. He was a talented cowboy poet. Later, John moved to Arizona, where he continued to work with cattle on the Apache reservation and elsewhere.



Andrew Kelley headstone, Kingston Cemetery. Inscription: "Andrew Kelley May 1, 1847 / Mar. 22, 1918". The star, moon, and sword/scimitar icons are symbols of Freemasons or Shriners; the star with OES stands for Order of the Eastern Star. Photo courtesy of Andrew's grandson, Patrick Kelley.

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<sup>25</sup> <https://glorerecords.blm.gov>



A Christmas card by J.P. Kelley, 1974. The inside text is at right.  
Courtesy Joe Britton.

John C. Kelley later remarried and had two more children: John Phillip "J.P." Kelley and Barbara Lee Kelley, both born in Arizona. J.P. Kelley followed in his father's footsteps and became a true cowboy, spending countless hours in the mountains and rugged desert with his father herding wild cattle and breaking broncs in Arizona and New Mexico. He also wrote cowboy poetry, just as his father did, and later he developed quite a talent for drawing and painting. That artistic skill was translated into a large catalog of bronze sculptures, most which reflect the Western and cowboy culture. J.P. Kelley's artwork is mostly in private collections, treasured by families from generation to generation. It was my privilege to meet J.P. Kelley while he was living and producing bronzes in Montana during the 1970s. Our family still owns some of his artwork, and in 2020 I wrote a book about him (*J.P. Kelley: Cowboy Artist*) to preserve his interesting life story and Kelley ancestry.

Some of Andrew Kelley's other children temporarily moved back to New Mexico later to find work during the Depression, but they all left for greener pastures as soon as they had the opportunity. Andrew and Cecilia Kelley have numerous living descendants, and many of them are well acquainted with their New Mexico roots; they are scattered far and wide across the West and Midwest, a proud remnant of the Kelley clan of Sierra County.

### **Home fer Christmas**

*I'm ridin' home fer Christmas  
Down th' snowy trails  
Hosses all drawn an' jaded  
With ice froze in their tails.*

*Home will be so cheery  
With th' fireplace all aglow  
Christmas cheer 'I be everywhere  
Like it was so long ago.*

*Old times 'I be remembered  
Acquaintances made anew  
Even though my ol' friends  
Will number now so few.*

*So saddle up an' join me  
You're welcome as can be  
An' you'll find a hearty welcome  
Spread around our Christmas tree.*

*J.P. Kelley 74*

**Author's Note** (taken from [jpkelleyart.com](http://jpkelleyart.com)): Some people we meet during our lives seem larger than life. J.P. was one of those people to me. I didn't know him well, but he made a big impression on me as a teenager with his ten-gallon black hat, tall figure, and witty stories. I met J.P. at the Bigfork Inn, in Montana, during the 1970s. My parents, who owned the inn then, purchased several of his bronze sculptures, and I marveled at his talent in capturing Western subjects with such detail and finesse.

Over time, our family lost track of J.P. A couple years ago, I was visiting my parents in Bigfork and admired a Kelley bronze on display in their home. I asked, "Whatever happened to J.P. Kelley?" No one knew. I thought that was unfortunate, since of all places he should be remembered Montana is at the top of the list. J.P. Kelley is one of the fine artists in the Flathead Valley who experienced firsthand a magical chapter in the art world, and whose legacy has endured to this day... Bigfork was somewhat of an artist colony, in those days. Also, my stepbrother worked at the renowned Ace Powell foundry at the time many of J.P.'s bronzes were cast there. J.P. is part of the fabric of my life in one of the most fantastic places on earth. Montana. I am honored to help tell his story [and that of his family!].

–Connie Fairfield Ganz

*A copy of Connie Ganz's book on J.P. Kelley is available in the Black Range Museum in the Research and Education Room. Our thanks to her for the gift of the book.*

## *Editor's Note*

This edition of *GZP* features two family chronicles, submitted in one case by a descendant of the Wordens and in the other case a friend of the Kelleys—extended families who migrated to Sierra County, settled there, lived out their lives in its rugged landscapes and tightly knit communities, and then over succeeding generations gradually dispersed.

What stands out for me are the similarities in the two families—they surely knew one another as fellow pioneers. They were all rather peripatetic, moving around New Mexico, Texas, Arizona and even California. They each made livings in a variety of occupations, and members of the two families found time to serve in a variety of noteworthy positions in their local community and territory. Later generations, having moved on, also made a name for themselves as ranchers, artists, soldiers, attorneys, and many other productive careers.

Preserving the stories of great families such as the Wordens and Kelleys is a worthy function of this newsletter. And reading their stories reminds us of how much the life of the communities of this area have relied over time on a social solidarity among people, even as they shared disagreements but experienced together both the successes and disappointments of life.

So this Editor's Note comes as an invitation to all members of our community to contribute articles about their own—or other—family histories. Such stories will always tell a tale from which we may take inspiration for the common life we share in our own day. They need not be heavily documented or researched to be a valuable addition to the historical record. Indeed, oral history is often some of the most illuminating, and certainly the most amusing!

So my heartfelt thanks to Susan Frances Worden and Connie Fairfield Ganz for the essays they sent in. They have enriched us all by sharing the stories that make up the context for their lives.

–Joe Britton

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### **The Hillsboro Historical Society**

P. O. Box 461, Hillsboro, New Mexico 88042

[www.hillsborohistoricalsociety.com](http://www.hillsborohistoricalsociety.com)

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