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The purpose of this publication is to provide scientific and historical data for the use of Park personnel engaged in interpretive activities.

Issues will appear bi-monthly and employees are urged to contribute articles and items of lasting interest. The Park Historian will serve as editor. Contributions or inquiries concerning published material should be addressed to him.

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A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

JOHNSON GARDNER

The second oldest place name appearing on current maps of Yellowstone National Park immortalizes an American trapper who was one of the harder characters engaged in that rough business, the fur trade.

Nothing is known of Johnson Gardner's life before the year 1824, when he appeared on Bear River as the leader of a band of free trappers accompanying Captain John Weber's party; yet his presence there is strong evidence he came up the Missouri River in 1822 or 1823 with an expedition of the Ashley-Henry enterprise which also included such latter-day notables as Jim Bridger, Jedediah Smith, Thomas Fitzpatrick and Hugh Glass. The Arickara and Blackfoot Indians made the venture unprofitable on that stream and its tributaries, so Major Henry was finally forced to abandon his fort at the mouth of the Big Horn River; but, before he retreated from the upper country, he tried one last gamble by launching a trapping party south and west. The men of that "forlorn hope" found their way across the Rocky Mountains into the beaver-rich littoral of the Great Salt Lake and were there successful.

It was also there, and but a year later, that Gardner achieved notoriety through his success in despoiling Peter Skene Ogden, the leader of a Hudson's Bay Company brigade also operating in the area. From the complaint of the Britisher--who called the transaction robbery, it appears Johnson Gardner induced Ogden's Iroquois trappers to desert to the Americans by promising them high prices for furs owed to the "Honorable Company", and, when Ogden attempted to restrain his men, Gardner used both threats and a show of arms to get his way. It was considered rather unsporting--even among competitors.

The meagre records indicate that Johnson Gardner remained in the northern Rocky Mountains for six years. He is mentioned by Governor Simpson, of the Hudson's Bay Company, as being Major Pilcher's clerk at the American trading post on Flathead Lake during the winter of 1828-29, and his name became attached for a time to the Idaho stream now known as Tincup Creek--a tributary of Salt River, but for what reason, is entirely lost to our generation. Later, when Smith, Jackson.

and Sublette retired from the fur trade, Gardner took what was owed him in the form of a note for \$1,321.48, dated August 1, 1830.

With his promisory note in hand, Johnson Gardner transferred his operations to the upper Missouri country, and he next appears on the books of the American Fur Company's Fort Union, where he sold 53 beaver skins and one otter for \$347 on July 12, 1831. A year later, he entered into a trapping agreement with Kenneth McKenzie at the same place, and, through it, we know that Gardner was an illiterate, for the instrument was signed with an "X, his mark".

Among other things, the agreement sets the terms for a sale of furs Gardner then had "en cache on the Yellowstone River," so that it must have been in 1831 or 1832 that he discovered and trapped the beautiful mountain valley which came to be known as "Gardner's Hole".

During the winter of 1832-33, the Arickara Indians caught Gardner's old comrade, Hugh Glass, on the ice of the Missouri River, and there killed the old man and two other trappers. A short time later, those Indians came into the camp of Johnson Gardner's party on the headwaters of Powder River where it was noticed that they had a rifle, knife, powder horn and other items known to be the property of the legendary Glass. Gardner had three of the Indians seized, after which he meted-out rather summary and brutal justice. Prince Maximilian of Weid, the German scientist who got to know Gardner in the course of a long boat trip down the Missouri, says that two of the Indians were killed with a knife when they attempted to escape, but another version was soon current on the frontier. According to John Sanford, who bothered to inform Indian Agent William Clark, those Arickaras were scalped and burned alive when they could give no satisfactory reason for possessing the worldly goods of a white trapper.

It only remains to add the comment of a contemporary writer--one Montgomery Flagg, who says:

"Not long afterwards Gardiner himself fell into the hands of the Erickeraws, who inflicted upon him the same dreadful death."

A case of pro pelle cutem--skin for skin, as Peter Skene Ogden would have wryly observed.

ALH

THE FIRST RANGER FAMILY

by

Aubrey L. Haines

Yellowstone National Park received its first police force through that provision of the Sundry Civil Appropriation Act of March 3, 1883, ^{1/} which allowed employment of "ten assistants, all of whom shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, and reside continuously in the park and whose duty it shall be to protect the game, timber, and objects of interest therein."

The political appointees arrived in good time -- easterners all, and nearly all inept or quite worthless. Locally, they soon became known as "rabbit catchers", which was probably a reasonably accurate appraisal. However, we are not concerned here with the bumbling efforts of that police force to protect the Park, but only in the fact that two of the men brought families with them and one of those families was the first to make the seasonal moves -- out into the Park at the onset of summer and back to headquarters in the fall -- which are so characteristic of ranger life to this day. So, it appears quite proper to call the family of James H. Dean a "ranger family", even though use of the term ranger to designate a Federal forest officer was yet twenty years in the future.

The Deans reached Park headquarters from their home in Maryland less than a month after Secretary Teller's announcement of the appointments on June 2, 1883. It was undoubtedly quite a disappointment to find there were no government quarters available for their use. They made out somehow during July and August, but the thought of suffering through a Yellowstone winter in such a hovel as they were then occupying induced Dean to seek a leave of absence for the worst months.

1/ Laws Relating to the Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming,
compiled in the office of the Secretary of Interior (Washington:
Government Printing Office, 1908), p.6., [22STAT., 626].

He was joined by Samuel S. Errett, whose family was in the same fix, in requesting leave to cover the period November 1, 1883, to March 1, 1884. Superintendent P. H. Conger forwarded the requests to the Secretary of the Interior with a favorable recommendation, only to be bluntly informed,

"These gentlemen ascribe the severity of the winter and the lack of winter quarters as the reasons for asking such leave. You will please inform them that under the law but thirty days leave can be granted in any one calendar year. If they cannot remain at their posts of duty during the winter, their resignations will be accepted." 2/

Neither man resigned, and perhaps neither could afford to give up a salary of \$900 per annum; on the other hand, they may have received some promises not obvious in the Secretary's heartless letter. In a later exchange of correspondence between the Park and Washington, Superintendent Conger was authorized to "construct a sufficient number of cabins, at such points as might be required for the use of the assistants." A plan for a building suitable for the Norris Geyser Basin -- where Dean was to be assigned, and estimated to cost \$332.50, was submitted November 3, 1883, and approved by the Secretary April 18, 1884.^{3/} We can only guess how Dean managed to house his family that first winter.

The following summer Dean was able to report that he had selected a site for this station at the Norris Geyser Basin, ^{4/} and William Douglas was soon at work with his crew of laborers, putting up a four-room frame house with lumber cut at Lt. Dan C. Kingman's steam sawmill.

The work progressed so rapidly that Dean was able, on August 14, to "respectfully report that my wife and self, with teamster and team loaded with our supplies and household effects, arrived here at 12.15 ocl^k on the morning of the 13th inst., and are now snugly fixed in the new quarters assigned by your orders."^{5/} That move in a freight wagon,

2/ Interior to Conger, September 22, 1883 (Yellowstone Archives, Document 132).

3/ Yellowstone Archives, Document 30.

4/ Dean to Conger, July 14, 1884 (Yellowstone Archives, Document 1359).

5/ Yellowstone Archives, Document 1356.

was made over the Norris Road -- a primitive track which was little more than a swath through the forest with tree stumps between the wheel ruts, bog-holes, crudely corduroyed swamps and no bridges.

In a very short time it became obvious to Dean that his family could not winter in such crude quarters as had been provided at Norris Geyser Basin; and so, with the first nip of fall in the air, he sought to justify a change of assignment by bringing these facts to the superintendent's attention"

"The weather here is quite cold. For several nights past water has frozen in our room. Will you kindly order me on duty at the Springs for the winter? Order to take effect Oct. 1st or at your pleasure. I ask this only on account of this building not being plastered. Consequently not in condition to occupy during the winter. I am told that Mr. Clark and family intend leaving the Park; if so can I have the use of the building they vacate? or the Geisinger cabin. Perhaps I might get the use of Mess. Wakefield & Hoffman's cabin."^{6/}

The Dean family did return to Park headquarters for the winter of 1884-85, thus completing the initial chapter in the story of the never-ending migrations of ranger families.

James H. Dean lost his position as an assistant superintendent, along with the other rabbit-catchers, when Congress did away with civilian management of the Park in 1886 by failing to provide funds for the payment of salaries. But that was not the end of his connection with Yellowstone Park, for he entered the service of the Yellowstone Park Association, rising to the position of general manager in 1892, and, ultimately, to a place on the Board of Directors of the Company.

^{6/} Dean to Ginger, September 3, 1884 (Yellowstone Archives, Document 1354).

THE YELLOWSTONE DIARIES OF A. BART HENDERSON
(1867 - 1873)

PART II

"Narrative Of A Prospecting Expedition To The East Fork &
Clarks Fork Of Yellowstone...1870."

by A. B. Henderson

[p. 84] Crow Agency. June 6th 1870.

Left this place at 10 o'clock for a prospecting tour to the headwaters of Wind River, East Fork [Lamar River] & Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone. Followed up the river. Crossed Cañon Mountain. Camped on first creek above cañon on east side [Suce Creek].

[Diary entries from June 6 to 21--pp. 84-87, have been omitted as they are not concerned with the exploration of the Yellowstone Park plateau. During that period the party, which included James Gourley, Adam Horne Miller, Ed Hibbard, and a man known only as "Dad", made slow progress up the Yellowstone Valley. At Emigrant Gulch they found 25 men working for a small return, and, while tarrying there, Henderson and his comrades "got on a spree & run all night." At Bear Gulch--present Bear Creek, above Gardiner, Montana, they found only two miners at work, "making from three to five dollars a day." From that outpost of the miners, Henderson's party followed up what he called the South Fork of Bear Gulch, crossed over the divide and descended Horse Creek onto Hell Roaring River in the neighborhood of the Hell Roaring Ranger Station, about three miles north of the Park boundary. We pick them up briefly at that point. -- Ed.]

Wyoming Territory, June 21, 1870.

Clear & warm. Raised camp early. Followed down the stream east. Here the hills come down on both sides forming a very rough cañon. We turned to the left, crossed a low divide or gap, & came to a beautiful flat, which we gave the name of Buffalo Flat [Buffalo Plateau], as we found thousands of buffalo quietly grazing.

This flat is something like 10 miles by 6, with numerous lakes scattered over it, & the finest range in the world. Here we found all manner of wild game--buffalo, elk, blacktail deer, bear & moose. Camped here.

[Diary entries from June 21 to 29--pp. 87-88, have been omitted. During that period the party dropped into the Buffalo Fork drainage, following it up to Boulder Pass before turning back toward the present Park. An interesting entry appears on June 28th, where Henderson notes: "Buffalo bull run thro the tent, while all hands were in bed." From there, the party crossed to Slough Creek. -- Ed.]

29th

Clear & warm. Raised camp early [and] followed up creek toward low divide, onto waters of Slough Creek. 3 miles from summit train attacked by buffalo bull. Fired one shot, he ran over me & attacked the horses. Finally killed him. Followed down 10 miles [and] camped on Slough Creek at 3 forks [Near mouth of Frenchy Creek]. Fine bottom for several miles down the creek.

This stream is something like 100 feet wide, [p. 89] shallow, clear & gravelly. Here we found the first indications of gold. Saw several holes sunk in the Middle Fork. Saw the first moose near camp. Mosquitoes & flies plenty.

June 30, 1870.

Clear & warm. Remained in camp. Located trail & killed a fine elk. South of camp the mountains are very high & rough, and of lava formation.

July 1st 1870.

Clear & warm. Raised camp early. Followed game trail up a small creek [Lake Abundance Creek] heading east. Camped near summit; good grass.--North side of creek high lime mountain, some indications of galena. South side lava & cement. Mountain sheep & wolverines plenty.

Sat July 2nd 1870

Clear & warm. Raised camp early [and] traveled east. Crossed thro a low pass on to the head waters of Middle Rosebud Creek. Here we found a most beautiful valley, hemmed in on all sides by high & rough mountains.

On the south by lava & cement; east by lime, granite & quartz, north by granite, & west by lime.

On the west is one of the finest lakes in the mountains [Lake Abundance]. It is one fourth mile wide & three quarters of a mile wide, & is full of the finest trout in the world.

Here we found the first gold on the trip--gold in every gulch & sag. Snow in patches, grass just starting. Thousands of bear, elk, buffalo & deer. We camped on the east side, & discovered several quartz lodes in the afternoon.

July 3rd 1870

Clear & cool. Remained in camp to prospect. Everybody excited. Found gold in paying quantities in several places. Gourley got 5 cents to the pan.

[p. 90]

Monday July 4th 1870

Clear & warm. Raised camp early & camped on west side at the lake. Fine grass, caught fine lot of trout. Killed several deer & 3 bear. We have found what we was hunting for--a quartz & placer camp. This camp will I think prove to be as good as any in the territory, that is in quartz.

[From July 4 to 18--pp. 90-92, this party prospected in the vicinity of Lake Abundance and Horseshoe Mountain, though they actually spent more time fighting grizzly bears than prospecting. For instance, on the 9th Henderson and Dad "met an old she bear & three cubs. After a severe fight killed the whole outfit, while a short distance further on we was attacked by an old boar bear. We soon killed him. He proved to be the largest ever killed in the mountains, weighing 960 pounds." On the 10th, Henderson notes "killed six bear today," while on the 11th he says: "I was chased by an old she bear today. Clime[d] a tree & killed her under the tree." Finally tiring of their war with Ursus horribilis, the late snow and high water, the party moved on to Broadwater River and down it to the Clark Fork, finding gold everywhere. But they "concluded to continue our trip & come back in the fall when water is low." Thus was the Cooke City mining area discovered.--Ed]

18th

Clear & warm in forenoon. T understorm in afternoon. Raised camp early, followed down river [Clark's Fork] on north side on old Indian trail. Very rough & rocky, down timber very bad for 3 miles. Came to open country & camp[ed] in it at west end of basin under Dog T-- Peak [Pilot Peak]. Mosquitoes & flies very bad, grass scarce.

19th

Cloudy & cold. Hunted for trail. Killed 3 bear.

20th

Clear & warm. Raised camp early, followed up, a creek [Pilot Creek], heading south near Dog T-- Peak. Followed up north side, good traveling.

Flies & mosquitoes bad. Camp in fine little bottom. Near head of this stream, good grass, game plenty. No gold. Mountains of lava & cement covered with heavy timber. Country very rough.

21st

Clear & cold. Raised camp early, followed creek to its head [and] camped on divide [1 mile S. of Republic Pass]. Fine grass, no gold. Dog L-- Peak stands near our camp, a little west of north. Country lava & cement.

22nd

Clear & cold. Raised camp early. Traveled south, came down on a very rough stream [Cache Creek], high lava peaks on both sides. The country soon changes to open rolling hills [with] fine grass [and] game trails running in all directions. Here we camped at the forks [2 miles below Cache Creek Patrol Cabin] for the purpose of prospecting. Found no gold. This days travel was south, thro buffalo, elk & bear--all very tame.

23rd

Cloudy & cold. Raised camp early [and] followed down [p. 93] creek in south direction. 8 miles below came to open country on the East Fork of the Yellowstone.

Here we found thousands of hot or boiling springs [This area 1 mile below the mouth of Cache Creek is no longer shown on the Park map]. Camped on East Fork, south side. Just opposite camp a small creek empties into river. One mile up this creek is a very singular butte, some 40 feet high, which has been formed by soda water. We gave the cone the name of Soda butte, & the creek the name of Soda Butte Creek.

Here we found thousands of antelope & flies.

Sunday July 24th 1870.

Clear & warm. Raised camp early, followed down river on south side [in a] west direction 10 miles. Came to junction with main Yellowstone.

Here we turned south, followed the divide between the two rivers, [and] camped near summit 15 miles north of the Great Falls of the Yellowstone. Grass good, some gold, flies & mosquitoes bad. Buffalo, elk & bear, while deer are more plentiful than we have seen on the trip. Killed several.

25th

Clear & warm. Raised camp early [and] followed the divide east 12 miles. Turned to left, came down on East Fork 5 miles above Warm Springs [down Flint Creek]. Fine range.

26th

Clear & cold. Left camp early, followed up East Fork 9 miles. Crossed river several times on old Indian trail. Left main river & followed North Fork 3 miles. Camped at second forks. Game trails everywhere, no gold but thousands of elk & deer.

27th

Clear & cool. Left camp early, followed up Middle Fork [Little Lamar] on north side--good trail, high on hill side. Came down on [sic] head of creek in a beautiful basin, ~~surrounded~~ on 3 sides by high & rough mountains of lava. No gold; elk & sheep plenty, bear everywhere.

[p. 94]

Thursday July 28th 1870

Clear & cold. Hunted trail to North Stinking River [North Fork of Shoshone]. Could not cross. Country very rough --lava & cement. Mountains covered with sheep.

29th

Clear & cool. Left camp early, traveled north. Crossed high & rough lava mountain. Came down on north waters of East

Fork Yellowstone [Lamar River]. Some of the roughest cañons I ever saw--had to grade in several places.. Camped on N side of N fork, near summit. Fine grass.

30th

Clear & warm. Raised camp early, traveled east 6 miles. Camped on summit at head of N fork of Stinking River, & of South Clarks Fork, & East Yellowstone. Most of the country on north side of the mountains is covered with snow several feet deep. Camped at 10 o'clock in a beautiful basin [with] fine spot of good grass on summit of mountain [Lamar Mountain]. We soon prepared dinner & fixed our camp for a storm which was fast gathering.

Soon after dinner Ed Hibbard & myself left camp for the purpose of hunting a way to get down on the head of N Stinking River. Some 6 miles east of our camp the country changes. Here we found a granite & quartz mountain.

Having to [no] tools to prospect with & having found a good way to get down the mountain, we started back to camp in great glee, as we was now near the place where we had no doubt there was rich placer & quartz mines [Sunlight Mining Region], & would be in the basin by noon the following day.

Soon after turning back we heard several shots in the direction of camp, which at first caused us some uneasiness as we supposed the camp might be attacked by Indians, but as we heard no more firing in that direction we supposed all was right. [p. 95] When we got within a half mile of camp the firing commenced again, & this time there was no mistaking its meaning. The camp was beyond a doubt attacked by Indians.

A short distance further we came in full view of the whole scene. We saw at a single glance that the camp was surrounded by Indians who already had our horses in their possession.

We soon picked a safe locality & joined in the action. The first volley we fired was the last, as the Indians were soon in full retreat, supposing themselves surrounded.

We was soon with our companions in camp--found everything all right except our horses, they being with the Indians.

We soon commenced preparations for the siege that would soon begin. We soon had our camp well fortified & patiently waited the return of the Indians. Dark soon came to our relief.

Sunday July 31st 1870.

Foggy & cold this morning. Slept but little during the night. We at once began preparing to return as our prospecting is ended at this point. We concluded to return & report.

Monday August 1st 1870.

Clear & cool. Left camp at noon. Our whole outfit consisted of the following articles. Flour 20 lbs., Coffee 15 lbs., Sugar 40 lbs., Salt 4 lbs., Tobacco 10 lbs.,

Ammunition 25 lbb., Campkettle, fry pan & axe.

We left everything else in tent--21 traps & 27 bearskins. Soon after leaving camp we commenced climbing a very steep mountain. Our packs we soon found to be very heavy, so stopped & left one half lying on the ground, then continued our journey resting every few hundred yards. We found several places on the north side so steep that it was necessary to dig holes in the rock to get down. [p. 96] We soon found that it was impossible to follow the divide even on foot, so we turned down a very rough canyon [Miller Creek] opening towards the East Fork. After going a few miles the cliffs on either side rose to the height of several thousand feet, of lava & cement. The benches [were] covered with mountain sheep. Halted 10 miles from camp in this cañon for the night.

10 miles Aug 2nd 1870.

Clear & warm. Left camp early. Followed down the creek, sometimes in the creek & sometimes on the banks. We found it impossible to get out of the canon, so followed down the bed of the stream for several miles.

James cached saddle at noon. Dad & Horne quarrelled about a dog, [and] drew guns & knives. I cocked my gun & told them to stop quarrelling--Camped near East Fork.

12 miles 3rd

Clear & warm. Shouldered our packs. Follow[ed] creek, resting every few hundred yards, 6 miles out--stopped for noon. Here we made a cache. Blanket, campkettle, axe, shovel & pick, & several other things. Camped near East Fork. Soon after camping our camp was attacked by wolves.

15 miles 4th

Clear & warm. Raised camp early. Followed down the creek; in a short distance came to East Fork. Six miles further nooned on N side of river. 9 miles further camp[ed] on south side opposite Soda Butte on Alum Creek [Henderson forgot he had already named this Soda Butte Creek].

12 miles 5th

Clear & warm. Left camp early. Followed down river 6 miles. Crossed to N side. Ed lost a boot. Nooned. Feasted on trout. A few miles further down, left river & turned north thro low gap. Killed 4 antelope. Camped for night. Soon after turning in for night Indians discovered approaching our bed. We fired [p.97] at them & left the place. Went 3 miles, came to a very rough country. Crawled into the brush & remained till morning.

12 miles 6th

Clear & warm. Raised camp early. Soon after leaving

camp, we came down on Slough Creek. Here we made breakfast & destroyed our powder by blowing it up. After breakfast we climbed high & rough mountain in forks of Slough Creek. In 7 miles came down on Buffalo Creek. Killed a deer. Camped for night.

14 miles Sunday Aug 7th 1870.

Clear & warm. Raised camp early. Followed up creek north. Stopped a few minutes, made a cup of coffee. --Camped near head of creek. Killed fine bull elk--very fat.

[Diary entries from August 7-13--pp. 97-98, have been omitted as they only cover the return afoot to the Crow Agency. The route followed was from Slough Creek to Buffalo Fork, Hell Roaring River and Boulder River.--Ed.]

A. B. Henderson

[To Be Continued]

NAMES OF LONE STAR GEYSER

The isolated and very beautiful geyser near the Firehole River three and one-half miles above Old Faithful came by its name of Lone Star in an unusual manner. Dr. Ferdinand V. Hayden had dubbed it "The Solitary", and it was so shown on his 1871-72 maps. In 1882, a party of surveyors running a preliminary location for a Northern Pacific branch line through Yellowstone Park were surprised to find a geyser cone in the forest well above the Upper Geyser Basin. S. P. Panton, who was in charge of the party, says it was "assumed that we were its discoverers. So we named it 'Lone Star Geyser' on our profiles." * Panton met the official photographer for the Northern Pacific Railway a short time later and showed him the "new" geyser, and the stereoscopic views taken by Haynes and widely distributed made the geyser known to the public by Panton's picturesque name.

* S. P. Panton, "Early Days in Yellowstone Recalled by N. P. Surveyor," in Wolf Point News (Montana), November 23, 1939.

ALH