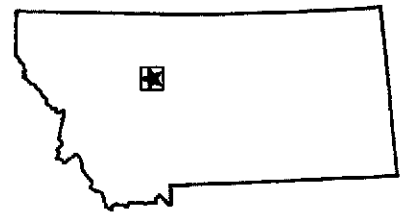

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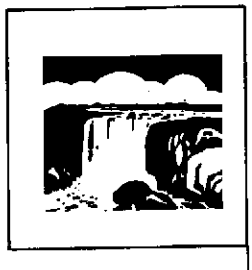

Great Falls Genealogy Society

October 2006 *Volume 31 Number 4*

Treasure State Lines
Great Falls Genealogy Society
High Plains Heritage Center 422 Second Street South
Great Falls, Montana 59405 Phone 406-727-3922
E-Mail: gfgs@mt.net Web Page: http://www.mt.net/~gfgs

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QUERY—*My Decker Ancestors*

Seek correspondence with anyone owning or having access to a copy of MY DECKER ANCESTORS by B. W. Decker, published in 1975. Specifically looking for any information on **Nicholas Wheeler (1728-1810) and his first wife, Mary (Marritje) Decker**. When they lived in Columbia Co. NY, he apparently had Tory leanings. Any postage and/or copying costs will be delightfully reimbursed.

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Miller's "An Illustrated History of Montana" of 1894—Abstracts

Robert Simpson Ford—page 34

R. S. Ford was born in Simpson County, Kentucky on January 14, 1842. His grandfather, Robert Ford was one of the pioneer settlers of Ohio where his father, John C. Ford was born. The family moved to Kentucky where John grew up and married Miss Henrietta Simpson, a descendant of the family in honor of whom the county was named. John died in his 30th year leaving his widow with four children. Her family moved with her brothers to Missouri in 1855 and resided there till the Civil War began when she returned to Kentucky where she died in 1873 in the 54th year of her age.

R. S. Ford was educated in the public schools of Westport, Missouri. In 1861 at age 19 he went West and began freighting out of Nebraska City to Julesburg and Fort Laramie. In 1864 he came to Montana in charge of an ox train of merchandise and freighted out of Cow Island and Fort Benton to Helena and other points for four years. In 1868 he returned to Kentucky to see his mother and stayed till spring when he went to Colorado , bought cattle, drove them to Montana and sold them in the Beaver Head Valley that fall. Again he returned to Denver, remained till spring when he bought more cattle, remained with them till the summer of 1871, drove then to the Sun River valley in Montana where he built a cabin a mile and a half above the point where Great Falls now stands, wintered his stock there and in the Spring sold them. Going to get more cattle he established a ranch within four miles of the town of Sun River. In 1878 he returned to Kentucky and married Miss Sue McClanahan. In 1886 he sold most of his stock and became a money lender. In 1891 he moved to Great Falls but retained his ranch, and in partnership with John T. Murphy and E. G. Maclay organized the Great Falls National Bank of which he was elected President. He also built in the city one of the fine two-story business blocks. He has had five children, but only two are spared to him by the hand of death, namely Lee McClanahan Ford and Shirley Samuel Ford, both at home.

Stephen Eugene Atkinson—page 63

S. E. Atkinson, president of the Cascade Bank of Great Falls, Montana, dates his birth in Carrollton, Ohio, November 17, 1848. He is of English descent and traces his ancestry back to Stephen Atkinson who emigrated to this country bringing a charter from the Crown to manufacture woolen goods in Maryland. His son, Isaac, grandfather of our subject, moved to western Pennsylvania and thence to Ohio where he engaged in operating woolen and flouring mills and in merchandising. Robert J. Atkinson, his son, was born in western Pennsylvania and was married to Matilda Jackson. He died in the 52nd year of his age. His good wife still survives him, and she is now (1894) 70. Their family of three sons and three daughters are all still living.

S. E. came to Montana in 1878 to take a position as bookkeeper with the First National Bank in Helena. In 1883 the Montana National Bank was organized in Helena and he took the position of assistant cashier there for 8 years. In 1889 he and his brother F. P. Atkinson, organized the Cascade Bank at Great Falls and he was made president of that bank. He moved to Great Falls in 1891.

Campaigning in the Philippines
1st Montana Infantry
Company K—2nd Battalion

Biographical Sketches

THOMAS DILLON, Captain, Company K, was born in Ireland in 1872. He came to Canada in 1886 and thence to the United States in 1888. He joined the 2nd U. S. Inf. In 1894 and was discharged in 1897. He belonged to Company K, National Guard of Montana. At the outbreak of the war he was commissioned Captain of Company K, 1st Montana Regiment, May 7th. He was wounded at Santo Tomas and was in all the engagements but two at San Fernando.

GEORGE E. KUMPE, 1st Lieutenant, Company A. was born in Leighton, Alabama, May 12 1896. He was a member of the National Guard of Montana, and at the outbreak of the war was mustered in as Sergeant of Company A. He was promoted to 2d Lieutenant, May 24, 1899, and to 1st Lieutenant, Company K, August 2, 1899. He participated with his regiment in all engagements.

ARTHUR W. STODDARD, 2d Lieutenant, Company K, 1st Montana Volunteers, was born at Newington, Hartford County, Conn., June 17, 1866, and was educated in the public schools of Hartford, Conn. He moved to Montana in 1884. In civil life he was a merchant in Lewiston, Fergus County, Montana. He enlisted in Company I, National Guard of Montana, in March, 1896, and was mustered into United States service as a Sergeant on May 9, 1896. He was appointed 1st Sergeant on June 1, 1899, and was commissioned 2d Lieutenant, August 6, 1899, and assigned to Company K.

Company K—2d Battalion

Name	Occupation	Address
Thomas S. Dillon, Capt	Soldier	Anaconda, Mont
George E. Kumpe, 1st Lieut.	Druggist	Great Falls, Mont.
Arthur W. Stoddard, 2d Lieut.	Merchant	Lewiston, Mont.
Patrick McBride, 1st Sergt.	Laborer	Anaconda, Mont.
Barney Marron, Q. M. Sergt.	Laborer	" "
Patrick Culleton, Sergt.	Laborer	" "
John F. Corrigan, Sergt.	Soldier	" "
John Reiley, Sergt.	Laborer	" "
William Lyons, Sergt.	Laborer	" "
Harold H. Tonseth, Corp.	Clerk	Portland, Oregon
James Fitzpatrick, Corp.	Laborer	Anaconda, Mont.
Frank P. Burke, Corp.	Refiner	" "
James R. Fitzpatrick, Corp.	Laborer	" "
John Alexander, Corp.	Fireman	" "
Edward Healy, Corp.	Laborer	" "
Thomas Williams, Cook	Brakeman	" "
Austin O'Malley, Wagoner	Laborer	" "

Co. K—2st Battalion

Privates

Name	Occupation	Address
Gustaf Ahlgren	Laborer	Anaconda, Mont.
Bruce K. Belknap	Laborer	Valley City, Wash.
Henry Bell	Baker	Anaconda, Mont.
Herman Blank	Shingle-worker	Nenno, Wis.
George D. Brown	Engineer	Anaconda, Mont.
Harry Burleigh	Cook	Huntington, Pa.
James T. Cannon	Laborer	Cresco, Iowa
James Conlon	Laborer	Anaconda, Mont.
Francis Corrigan	Laborer	" "
Earl Daugherty	Fireman	Sharon, Pa.
Joseph M. Devine	Clerk	Peru, Ind.
George C. Douglas	Laborer	Anaconda, Mont.
Patrick Duffy	Smelterman	" "
Frank Faley	Laborer	" "
Thomas Feeney	Laborer	Hollville, Ind.
James Garvey	Laborer	Anaconda, Mont.
James Golden	Laborer	" "
Frank Goldsworthy	Laborer	Lake Linden, Mich.
Walter Green	Cook	Anaconda, Mont.
Frederick C. Greene	Harness-maker	Lake Linden, Mich.
John Hagar	Cook	Anaconda, Mont.
Paul Harmon	Waiter	" "
Lawrence Keegan	Laborer	" "
John Kiely	Laborer	" "
Carl G. Killinger	Carpenter	Peru, Ind.
John Kirley	Miner	Anaconda, Mont.
Patrick, McCollum	Laborer	" "
James McDevitt	Miner	" "
Barney McKittrick	Laborer	" "
Robert Murphy	Miner	Denver, Col.
John Newman	Miner	Anaconda, Mont.
Paul E. Nicholas	Clerk	Spirit Lake, Iowa
Hugh Rafferty	Laborer	Anaconda, Mont.
Richard S. Ryan	Laborer	" "
John Smith	Laborer	" "
Frank J. Smyth	Laborer	" "
Howard L. Tanner	Brakeman	Volney, Iowa
John J. Tiernay	Laborer	St. Paul, Minn.
Clemson Underwood	Laborer	Anaconda, Mont.
Henry Watt	Rancher	" "

Deserted

Richard C. Burke	Musician	Anaconda, Mont.

Discharged

Jacob M. Kennedy, 1st Lieut.	Anaconda, Mont.	Journalist	Resigned, Dec. 31, 1898;36th USV
Michael Barry, Sergt.	Manila, P. I.	Laborer	By Order, July 1, 1899. Re-enlisted
John Calvin, Corp.	Manila, P. I.	Butcher	By Order, July 1, 1899
Thomas A. O'Toole	Manila, P. I.	Laborer	By order, Aug 13, 1899. Re-enlisted
Henry Bode, Musician	Honolulu, H. I.	Sailor	By order, August 3, 1899
Joseph E. Jette, Musician	Anaconda, Mont.	Laborer	Disability, September 5, 1899
John Clinton, Artificer	" "	Electrician	Disability, Aug 22, 1899;36th USV
William A. Brown	Manila P. I.	Miner	By order, July 1, 1899. Re-enlisted
Hoyt B. Cooper	Anaconda, Mont.	Cook	Disability, August 17, 1899
Michael Fitzgerald	Manila, P. I.	Motorman	By order, July 1, 1899. Re-enlisted
Martin K. Hyman	Anaconda, Mont.	Cook	By order, August 18, 1899
Lawrence Keenan	" "	Laborer	Disability, Aug. 17, '99; 37th USV
John Kerrigan	Manila, P. I.	Laborer	By order, July 1, 1899. Re-enlisted
Thomas Mallory	Anaconda, Mont.	Laborer	Disability, July 3, 1899
James W. Reed	" "	Cook	By order, Aug. 18, '99; 37th USV
Robert M. Richwine	Manila, P. I.	Peddler	By order, July 16, 1899. Re-enlisted
John P. Rowan	Anaconda, Mont.	Cook	By order, October 6 1898

Transferred

Philip Greenan, 1st Lieut.	Anaconda, Mont.	Merchant	To Captain, Company L, Aug 2, 1899
Myles Kelly, 2d Lieut.	" "	Laborer	To 1st Lieut., Co. H, Jan. 24, 1899
Arthur O'Leary, Corp	" "	Student	To 1st Lieut., Co. M, Jan 24, 1899
Herman Fashman	Loraine, Ohio	Machinist	To Reg. Band, June 29, 1898
Martin K. Hyman	Anaconda, Mont.	Cook	To Company B, September 3, 1899
Robert Lennington	" "	Carpenter	To Hospital Corps, May 11, 1898
Albert D. McNeal	" "	Cook	To Hospital Corps, June 11 1898
Jeremiah Mahoney	" "	Barber	To Company C, October 7, 1898

Wounded

Thomas S. Dillon, Capt.	Wounded in left side, Near Santo Tomas, P. I., May 4, 1899.
Philip Greenan, 1st Lieut.	Wounded in right side, at Caloocan, P. I., February 23, 1899.
Patrick McBride, 1st Sergt.	Wounded in chest and right arm, at San Fernando, P. I., May 8, 1899.
Bruce F. Belknap	Wounded in left breast, neat Santo Tomas, P. I. May 4, 1899.
Joseph E. Jette	Wounded in left shoulder at Bagbag River, P. I., April 25, 1899.
Lawrence Keenan	Wounded in right lung, near Meycauayan, P. I., March 27, 1899.
John Kirley	Wounded in right shoulder, at Apalit, P. I., April 27, 1899.
Thomas Mallory	ounded in left shoulder, at Caloocan, P. I., February 10, 1899.
Robert Murphy	Wounded in right shoulder, near Apalit, P. I., April 27, 1899.
Howard L. Tanner	Wounded in left leg, at Caloocan, P. I., February 28, 1899.
John J. Tierney	Wounded in left thigh, near Meycauayan, P. I., March 27, 1899.

Dead

James A. Callahan	Killed in action, near Calumpit, P. I., April 26, 1899.
Michael Corrigan	Died of dysentery, at Manila, P. I., July 15, 1899.
Charles A. Kaiser	Died of typhoid fever, at Manila, P. I., April 8, 1899.
James Kennedy	Drowned in Bagbag River, P. I., April 25, 1899.
Thomas Scallon	Killed in action, near Santo Tomas, P. I., May 4, 1899.

Col. Kessler now moved the regiment forward, and after sharp fighting, occupied the line contemplated in the General's orders. It included, besides the church and cemetery mentioned, the town of Lico and also block-house No. 2, a strong fortress of hewn stone, provided with numerous port-holes for musketry. Companies C, F, H, I, K, L and M had taken part in the engagement, while G (Capt. Wynne) was on the left of the Kansas, and fought bravely with that regiment. The next day (Monday, the 6th) an adjustment of the lines was made, involving a slight advance. Trenches were thrown up, and the position retained until February 10th. The bulk of the regiment was stationed to the left of block-house No. 2; Company E was at the block-house, and C and M were to the right near La Loma Church, with the Pennsylvanias, under command of Maj. Drennan.

The fight of the 5th claimed six victims. The following were wounded: Private L. L. Pierstorff, Company C; Private Charles Runnels, H; Private George A. Rowland, H; Corp. Edward L. Skinner, I; Corp. William Meyersick, I, (died February 13th), and Private John Sorensen, L, (died February 20th). Private Henry Slack, Company B, was wounded on the 7th.

The extension of the line, to include the village of Caloocan, was now decided upon by the division commander. The movement was set for the 10th of February, and made with the co-operation of the fleet. For thirty minutes, beginning at 3:09 P. M., upon signal from the high cupola of La Loma Church, the division headquarters, the rebel entrenchments were bombarded by the big 10-inch guns of the navy, and the shrapnel of the Utah Artillery. The ardor of the cannoneers was such that it was impossible to control their fire within the time limits fixed, so that it was not safe for the infantry advance to commence until 3:50 P. M. Then the signal was given and the Montana boys swept forward in a hail of Mauser and Remington bullets. The enemy fled before them in confusion, many falling before the well-directed fire. The programme placed Companies D, G, A and I between Kansas on the left and the 3d Art. on the right, on the firing line, but Companies L, K, B and F, who had been designated as support to remain in the rear, could not be controlled, and they, too, pressed forward on the advance line. Col. Kessler was in command of these eight companies. Company E held block-house No. 2, and C was with the Pennsylvanias at La Loma Church. Company M and its Captain were selected for a duty which is referred to in the report of the division commander in the following words:

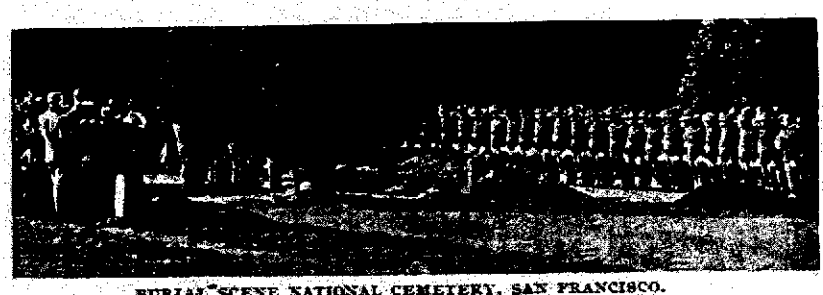
UP MARKET STREET, SAN FRANCISCO.

"In the connection with the occupation of Caloocan, Company M of the Montana Regiment, Capt. Hallahan commanding, was placed under the orders of Maj. Bell, U. S. V. engineers, in charge of the office of Military Information, with a view to utilizing a ravine for a concealed advance, in the hope of deriving advantage from the sudden and unexpected appearance of troops on that part of the field. This duty, which was special in its nature, and also involved the possibility of extra hazard, was well performed."

Capt. Hallahan, in a personal interview with Gen. MacArthur, received the instructions for his command. The company, at 1:30 on the afternoon of the battle, concealed by a rank growth of bamboos and grasses, took position some distance in advance of the troops. At the preconcerted signal, the discharge of a cannon, the men stealthily crawled forward, unobserved by the enemy, endeavoring to gain the left flank of the enemy's trenches, and to drive them therefrom by enfilading fire. When within 300 yards, they opened on the enemy, and were then attacked both front and rear. After a determined stand, the firing from the insurgents in the rear subsided, the rest of the American forces having in the meantime commenced their advance. Capt. Hallahan then moved forward and soon arrived at his destination, the final charge being made with fixed bayonets, ammunition having given out. Company D arrived at Caloocan about the same time from the other direction. Privates James Casey and William E. Edwards of Company M raised the American flag on the town at 5:15 P. M., while rebel bullets were still flying. The ardor of the Montana boys was such, and the "niggers" ran so well, that our men were carried over a mile beyond their destination, but before nightfall were ordered back to Caloocan. The insurgents had fired the village before evacuating and nothing was standing save the railroad shops and the church, which had been used as a fort and partly ruined by the shells from the battleships in the bay.

FULFILLING A PROMISE.

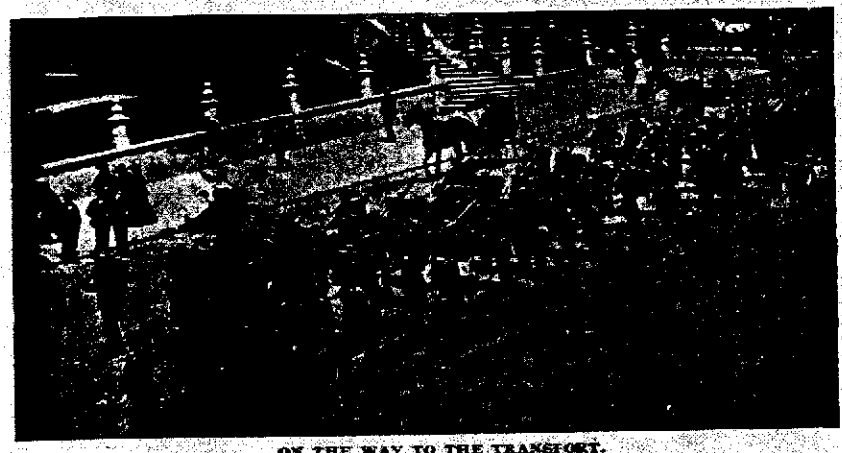
The victory, however, was costly. Private Frederick Hall of the band, was killed. The following were wounded: Lieut. Col. R. B. Wallace; Private John C. Bullard, Company A; Musician Seth H. Dibble, Company A; Corp. David A. Bruneau, Company A; Private Adolph F. Charette, Company A; Sergt. Everett Metcalf, Company B; Sergt. Geo. W. Lowman, Company D; Private James M. Box, Company D; Private Edward G. Reynolds, Company D; Capt. Wm. F. Hill, Company F; Lieut. Wm. C. Gardenhire, Company F; Private James Cravere, Company F; Private James W. Kennedy, Company G; Private Delos D. Babcock, Company G; Artificer Wm. J. Borthwick, Company G; Private Karl J. Peterson, Company G; Private Thomas Malloy, Company K; Private John J. Campbell, Company M (died February 16th); Private Joseph Callahan, Company M, and Private Clarence G. Briggs of the band (died February 12th), a total of one killed and twenty wounded. Private Percy C. Bullard, Company I, had been wounded the day before.



BURIAL SCENE NATIONAL CEMETERY, SAN FRANCISCO.

The Montana boys now entrenched themselves a little beyond Caloocan and to the right of the railroad track, and here they remained until March 24th, when

further advance was ordered. The camp consisted of a long single row of shelter tents, pitched directly in the trenches, and here, for a month and a half, the soldiers, from Colonel down, slept, ate, drank, chatted, wrote letters and fought The life was trying. Outposts were maintained at some distance to the front, and this dangerous duty was attended with frequent casualties. In the trenches it was necessary to be on the alert at all hours of the day and night. The favorite hours for insurgent attack were 11 at night, and 3 in the morning; but at any time one was likely to be disturbed at mess, during a nap, or while washing or shaving, and compelled to pick up the rifle for an exchange of compliments with the dusky warriors. Such things as leaves-of-absence were unknown. Everyone had to stay right on the fighting-line. From Malabon, separated by a marsh and an arm of the sea, the deadly fire of the insurgents entirely covered the camp. The bullets came not only from the front but also from the rear. The dangerousness of the position is attested by the following list of casualties, which occured during the occupation: killed, Private Henry C. Beecher, Company A, on March 15th; wounded, Private Francis G. Anspach, Company A, February 25th; Private Alvin F. Plottner, A, February 28th; Private Otto Nelson, A, February 23d; Private John W. Shannon, A, February 23d; Private Charles Brinton, B, February 11th; Private Martin Hyman, B, February 22d; Private John F. Eunn, C, February 23d; Private Glen Hurd, C, February 23d; Private Albert S. Hicks, C, February 25th; Private William F. Kraemer, D, February 23d; Private Frederick A. Chaxel, F, February 23d; Private Theodore H. Manchester, G, February 23d; Private Edward S. Moore, G, February 27th (died February 28th); Private William A. Bonham, I, February 23d; 1st Lieut. Philip Greenan, K, February 23d; Private Howard L. Turner, K, February 28th; Private Thomas P. Dunn, L, February 23d; Private William J. Cheastey, M, February 28th, and Private Alfred Cashmore of the band, March 2d; a total of one killed and one wounded, in this period.



ON THE WAY TO THE TRANSPORT.

There was much suffering from the heat, the poor quality of the food, the badness of the water, the unhealthiness of the neighborhood, and the close confinement to the camp.

The days at Caloocan were unrelieved by engagements of any magnitude. The events of February 23d are, however, noteworthy. On that day a formidable uprising was undertaken in the city of Manila by the combined efforts of the natives, assisted by insurgent soldiers, who had apparently passed our lines

VIEWS IN THE INTERIOR OF LUZON.