

A Fresh Look at "Big Nose Kate"

by Patrick A. Bowmaster

"Big Nose Kate" Elder, one of the wildest saloon girls of the "Wild West" and the lover of the notorious gambler, gunslinger, dentist J. H. Holliday, deserves a fresh look. Several currently held opinions about her life do not stand up to scrutiny. Interesting sources that help tell her story have been overlooked. Observations about her life that beg to be made have not been.

The most tantalizing claims ever made regarding Kate's life had their genesis in 1992. In a *True West* magazine article published that year entitled "Frontier 'Lost Person' Found," Glenn G. Boyer wrote that she "was born of aristocratic family in Budapest in 1850."¹ Boyer repeated the claim in a self-published pamphlet that appeared in 1997. In *Wyatt Earp, Family, Friends, & Foes, Volume I. Who was Big Nose Kate?*, Boyer labeled Kate an "aristocrat."² Michael M. Hickey made the same assertion in his 1994 book *The Cowboy Conspiracy to Convict the Earps*. In his text Hickey related that Kate "was said to have had a lineage traceable to European royalty."³ Ben T. Traywick made a similar comment in his 1995 self-published work *John Henry (The "Doc" Holliday Story)*. In the book Traywick describes Kate's family as "upper class."⁴ The final person to have made the same assertion was Olivia Robinson. In an article published in the Fall/Winter 1996 issue of *The [WOLA] Journal* entitled "She Did It Her Way—Doc's Woman," Robinson described Kate's family as "aristocratic."⁵

In his *True West* article Boyer maintained that Kate's "father took



Mary Katherine Haroney, who became the inamorata of John Henry "Doc" Holliday. This is her earliest known photograph. She is seated at left with her sister. Where and when this image was made is unknown. Photo courtesy the Sharlot Hall Museum Library/Archives, Prescott, Arizona.

surgeon on [French Puppet Emperor Ferdinand] Maximilian's ill-fated empire-building adventure to Mexico."⁶ He made the same claim in *Who was Big Nose Kate?*, "Kate's father had been a surgeon with Maximilian on his ill-fated venture into Mexico, taking the family with him," commented Boyer in the pamphlet.⁷ In *John Henry (The "Doc" Holliday Story)*, Traywick echoed Boyer's remarks. According to Traywick: "The Harony [Kate's real surname] family came to Mexico [from Austria-Hungary] with Emperor Maximilian; [Kate's father] Michael in the capacity of physician."⁸ If accurate, Traywick's assertion would mean that like Maximilian, Kate's family set sail from Austria for Mexico on April 13, 1864, and arrived in Mexico on May 27, 1864. Yet Robinson stated in her *Journal* article that "in 1862 [italics mine], Mexico's Emperor Maximilian appointed Dr. Haroney as his surgeon, and with this appointment the Haroney family left *Hungary* [italics mine] for Mexico."⁹ The fact that in 1862 Maximilian was an archduke of Austria and would not become an emperor until 1864 is a minor point. So too is the fact that Maximilian sailed to Mexico from Austria and not Hungary. More important is Robinson's claim that Kate's family headed to Mexico in 1862. The French forces that were to eventually provide the muscle necessary to place Maximilian upon the throne of Mexico did not capture the Mexican capital of Mexico City until June 10, 1863. Maximilian did not make up his mind for good to become Emperor of Mexico until the day before he was proclaimed emperor on April 10, 1864. He did not first set foot on Mexican soil until May 28, 1864, and did not reach Mexico

City and assume the duties of emperor of Mexico until June 12, 1864. It therefore is unlikely that one of Maximilian's surgeons and his family would have made the trip to Mexico in 1862.

More Published Opinions

In explaining how Kate's family came to America, Boyer related in his *True West* article that when Maximilian's "regime crumbled, the Haronys fled Mexico and settled in Davenport, Iowa, around 1865 [italics mine]."¹⁰ In *Who was Big Nose Kate?* he wrote: "Their father cut and ran before Maximilian's luck ran out" and "took his family to Davenport, Iowa."¹¹ In *John Henry (The "Doc" Holliday Story)*, Traywick echoed Boyer's claims. According to Traywick, when the Maximilian "government was overthrown and Maximilian executed, the Harony family slipped out of Mexico and, in November 1863, [italics mine] reappeared in Davenport, Iowa."¹² The opinion expressed by Robinson in her *Journal* article about Kate's family relocating to America is more in concert with Boyer's remarks than with Traywick's. According to Robinson, "the Haroney family fled Mexico when Maximilian's court crumbled in 1865 [italics mine]."¹³ In actuality, Maximilian's overthrow and his subsequent execution did not occur until spring 1867. By then Kate and her siblings had been living with a foster family in Iowa for at least a year. Robinson's comment about Maximilian's "court crumbl[ing] in 1865" is highly questionable. Traywick's assertion that Maximilian was deposed and put to death in 1863 is just plain inaccurate. [Maximilian was executed June 19, 1867.]

Hickey's source for his belief that Kate was "European royalty" is presumably Boyer's *True West* article. Robinson cites both Boyer's

article and a personal interview with Traywick as her sources for her remarks about Kate's noble birth and connection with Maximilian. The extent to which Robinson relies upon this interview in her article and Traywick's close friendship with Boyer leads one to suspect that Traywick had full access to Boyer's sources on Kate when writing *John Henry (The "Doc" Holliday Story)*.

As related in *Who was Big Nose Kate?*, Boyer's source for his aforementioned assertions about Kate's aristocratic background and association with Maximilian were Kate's nephew Albert Haroney and/or Kate's niece Hattie Maddox. Boyer first corresponded with and possibly conducted telephone interviews with Albert and Hattie in 1976. A year later an article co-authored by Boyer entitled "The O. K. Corral Fight at Tombstone, A Footnote by Kate Elder" appeared in the periodical *Arizona and the West*. In the work Boyer published many revelations about Kate's life based upon information provided him by Albert and Hattie. According to the article, in May 1863 (fully one year before Maximilian arrived in Mexico) Kate's father relocated the family from Hungary to the United States and purchased a single lot of land in Davenport, Iowa, from one George Davenport. Nowhere in the article are claims made about Kate's having been of noble birth and connected with Maximilian.

Claims About Kate

Boyer's first face-to-face meeting with Albert and Hattie came in 1979. Three years later Boyer published an article in *Real West* magazine entitled "On the Trail of Big Nosed Kate." The text of the work contained even more revelations about Kate's life that had been garnered by Boyer from Albert and Hattie. Like Boyer's



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1977 *Arizona and the West* article, this 1982 work did not contain any claims about Kate having been an aristocrat and connected with Maximilian. The article did contain what appears to be the complete text of a letter Boyer received from the granddaughter of Kate's brother Louis, Mrs. Ernest L. Beckwith. In this letter Beckwith details the background history of Kate's immediate family but makes no mention of Kate having been an aristocrat or associated with Maximilian. And contrary to Boyer's 1977 *Arizona and the West* article, Beckwith maintains that "the Horony family arrived in Davenport, Iowa [on] Nov. 5, 1863 [*italics mine*]," six months before Maximilian reached Mexico.¹⁴

It is logical to assume the revelation that Kate was a noble and associated with a person as notable and fascinating as Maximilian would have been among

the very first pieces of information that Albert and/or Hattie shared with Boyer. Yet Boyer waited until 1992 to publish these juicy tidbits and waited until 1997 to publish the source upon which the claims rest. This last fact might be a reflection of the fact that Boyer himself suspected that the claims were spurious.

Driven by family pride and embarrassed by Kate's life as a notorious dance hall girl and prostitute, Kate's nephew and/or niece might easily have made grandiose false claims about Kate's background and life before she became "Big Nose Kate." (Most of us have at least one relative who has a penchant for telling fish stories about our family history.) It is also possible that Albert and/or Hattie decided to spice up Kate's life story because they hoped to sell the rights to it for profit. It is the belief of this writer that Kate was

not aristocratic, had no connection to Maximilian, never set foot on Mexican soil in her life, and came directly from Hungary to Iowa in the mid-1860s. Assertions to the contrary not only sound too good to be true but are in fact too good to be true.

Besides that which has been previously mentioned, there is another reason to doubt the claims in question. If Kate had been born into a noble family she more than likely would have grown into a refined and dignified adult. However, an examination of her life reveals a pattern of behavior that was completely lacking in refinement and dignity.

Incorrect Beliefs

The misguided belief that Kate's family was aristocratic and connected with Maximilian has led to other incorrect beliefs about her life. Traywick maintained in his book *John Henry (The "Doc"*

Holliday Story) that "it is sure that the Maximilian court was frequently attended by the Harony family."¹⁵ This conclusion is undoubtedly based solely upon Traywick's assumption that Kate was of noble birth and associated with Maximilian and not grounded in any evidence.

In his 1992 *True West* article Boyer maintained that Kate "spoke several languages."¹⁶ In *John Henry (The "Doc" Holliday Story)* Traywick wrote: "Kate was as well-educated as Doc [Holliday who received a strong pre-college education and held a degree from a dental college], perhaps better."¹⁷ Robinson echoed Traywick's comments in her *Journal* article. According to Robinson, Kate "most likely was well-educated" and "probably spoke at least English, Hungarian, and Spanish."¹⁸ A statement made by Boyer in *Who was Big Nose Kate?* reveals the source of the above mentioned beliefs

about Kate's education. "Kate, tutored [*italics mine*] as an aristocrat, spoke at least five languages, including French," commented Boyer in the pamphlet.¹⁹ However, since this writer believes that Kate was no aristocrat, he also does not believe that she was privileged to the education a noble of the period would normally have received.

As a young adult, Kate decided to "Go west." It was after reaching the "Wild West" that she earned the nickname "Big Nose Kate" or, as some primary sources have it, "Big Nosed Kate." Contrary to what one would assume, it appears that it was not the extent to which her nose protruded from her face that caused her to be called as such. When considered from this perspective, her nose was large but not that much larger from the norm to warrant her earning the label. An existing photograph of Kate as a young woman suggests that it was the fact that her nose began very, very high on her face and therefore was enormous in "height" rather than in length that won for her the not so flattering tag.

A Frontier Prostitute

While in the prime of her life Kate primarily earned a living as a prostitute. Doc Holliday's first biographer, John Myers Myers, commented in his 1955 book *Doc Holliday* that she was "one of the frontier prostitutes who operated on her own, without paying tribute to any madams or mads."²⁰ The claim has been repeated by many and disputed by none. However, subsequent scholarship has established that in the summer 1874, Kate paid fines as a result of being employed as a prostitute in a Wichita, Kansas, gambling hall. As an employee of a gambling hall she was obviously associated with a madam/mac and was required to pay her/him a portion of her earnings.

It was while working as a saloon girl that Kate first became involved with Dr. J. H. Holliday. The date of their first meeting is a matter of controversy. In his 1963 book *Wyatt Earp, 1848 To 1880, The Untold Story*, Ed Bartholomew asserted that "Doc and Kate were together as early as 1875."²¹ A similar claim was made by Bob Boze Bell in his 1994 work *The Illustrated Life and Times of Doc Holliday*. But unlike Bartholomew, Bell published the evidence upon which the opinion rests. Fort Griffin, Texas, court records indicate that on January 12, 1875, Holliday and a woman named "Kate" were among several indicted by the Fort Griffin Grand Jury for keeping a "disorderly house" and "gaming [gambling] in a saloon."²² In his book Bell states emphatically that the Kate in question was "Big Nose Kate."

However, there undoubtedly were many woman named Kate on the frontier during the period. Furthermore, Kate claimed 1876 as the year she met Holliday in a memoir completed in the twilight of her years. And, two primary sources suggest that the pair did not meet until fall, 1877. In Stuart N. Lake's 1931 book *Wyatt Earp, Frontier Marshal* and an 1896 interview published in *The San Francisco Examiner*, Wyatt Earp is attributed with the claim that such was the case. More convincing evidence should be produced before a 1875 link between Kate and Doc is accepted.

It is undoubtedly Kate's relationship with Holliday that is most responsible for her gaining a significant degree of infamy. One aspect of this relationship has remained unexplored. In his 1930 book *Triggernometry: A Gallery of Gunfighters*, Eugene Cunningham offered a very particular reason for Holliday's being enamored of Kate.

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wrote Cunningham: "The story I have heard, accounting for Holliday's infatuation with her, does not bear printing."²³ The statement is undoubtedly a reference to sodomy and oral sex in particular since anal sex was relatively unheard of among heterosexual couples during the period.

Sexual Practices

Assuming it was a Tombstone, Arizona, old timer who was Cunningham's source for the information, it must be kept in mind that relying on the memory of senior citizens as historic sources often proves problematic, to say the least. If the information was part of the oral history of Tombstone, it should be remembered that much of oral history is subject to the same distortions that one would find in a generations' long game of telephone. Furthermore, Cunningham's book is notoriously inaccurate. It therefore would be easy to dismiss Cunningham's claim about the reason for Doc becoming involved with Kate if not for a statement found in Harry Sinclair Drago's book *Wild, Woolly & Wicked*. According to Drago: "Sisters of her scarlet profession accused her [Kate] of indulging in sexual practices on which they frowned."²⁴ Drago's revelation suggests that there might very well have been substance to Cunningham's claim.

It was probably in Fort Griffin, Texas, in 1877 that Kate and Doc first met. One Fort Griffin citizen who knew Kate was John Jacobs. In an interview published in J. Marvin Hunter's 1959 work *The Story of Lottie Deno, Her Life and Times*, a book that has been completely ignored by "Earpianna" writers, Jacobs made noteworthy comments about Kate. According to Jacobs, Kate, recalled as a "notoriously lewd character," one day had an interesting exchange with another

notable resident of the locale, Lottie Deno. As he recounted, Kate, who was a jealous woman, pointed an accusatory finger at Deno. Her charge was that Deno, a beautiful mystery woman who was one of those rare frontier females who earned a living as a professional gambler and dealer, was trying to steal Holliday away from her. Deno responded by hollering: "Why, you low-down slinkin' slut! If I should step in soft cow manure, I would not even clean my foot on that bastard! I'll show you a thing or two!"²⁵ She then drew a gun. Kate thereafter proved equal to the challenge by pulling a firearm of her own. Holliday subsequently diffused the situation by stepping in the middle of the two.

Leaving Fort Griffin

What has long been believed by many to be the circumstances surrounding Kate and Doc's departure from Fort Griffin in the fall of 1877 have become part of Western legend. The story, in various forms, has become a staple of countless Western yarns. The tale begins with Holliday killing a fellow gambler with a knife in a dispute over a poker game. Holliday is thereafter put under arrest. When a lynch mob itches to hang her lover, Kate springs into action to save his neck. She borrows a six-gun from a friend to complement the one she always carried, lights a fire in town to serve as a diversion, throws down, or trains her guns on Holliday's guards, proclaims "come on, Doc" with a laugh, and the two scamper away to safety.²⁶

However, in his aforementioned *John Henry (The "Doc" Holliday Story)*, Traywick offered what he claims to be the truth behind the legend. According to Traywick, at the time Texas law held that a person could not gamble and drink alcohol in the same room. Because he violated this law,

Holliday was arrested for "illegal gambling" and confined in a guarded hotel room.²⁷ Kate set a fire in town in order to spring her man and consequently had a warrant sworn out against her for arson.

Bail for Gambling

After having been arrested for the minor offense of "illegal gambling," an individual would normally have been jailed only as long as it would have taken for bail to be set and for this insignificant bail to have been made. Soon thereafter, a hearing would have been held on the charge and after having been found guilty the individual in question would have paid a small fine and been on his way. Only in the event that one could not make bail or could not afford to pay the penalty would he have been jailed. For those who were jailed, freedom would not be long in coming. A person who could not make bail would only have a short wait until their hearing. Those who could not afford to pay the fine would have made some sort of an arrangement to satisfy the law and have been released shortly.

To believe that between the two of them Holliday and Kate could not scrape together the money needed for him to make bail and/or pay the fine he would have been assessed for "illegal gambling," had a hearing on the charge been held, is too preposterous to believe. Yet even if such were the case it would certainly not have given Kate reason to break Holliday out of jail.

There has never been discovered any newspaper reports or court records that suggest Holliday ever killed or attempted to kill anyone in Fort Griffin. In fact, the only crime that Holliday is known to have committed in Fort Griffin that can be unequivocally docu-

mented is "illegal gambling." Furthermore, Traywick's source for his belief that Kate had a warrant sworn out against her for arson in Fort Griffin is a reliable one in the person of Shackelford County, Texas, archivist, Joan Farmer. Consequently, if Traywick is correct in the belief that Holliday's "illegal gambling" and Kate's presumed commission of arson are related events and both are the source for the legend in question then there must be more to this story than is currently known. Only in such a case could Traywick's explanation be considered satisfying.

It is possible that Kate set the fire and freed Doc solely for kicks and Doc played along for sheer enjoyment. It is also possible that Holliday was being "set up" when he was jailed for "illegal gambling." While in custody he would have been an easy mark for a person[s] he had crossed and who wished take his life. A fear that Holliday was to be murdered would explain Kate's drastic action. Trouble seemed to follow Holliday wherever he went and he might have been in a scrape on this occasion.

Leaving Fort Griffin

After leaving Fort Griffin, Kate and Doc next set up shop in Dodge City, Kansas. Overlooked by commentators is Odie B. Faulk's interesting assertion in his 1977 book *Dodge City: The Most Western Town of All* that during one of her stays in Dodge Kate gained a reputation for using a meat cleaver to fend off bothersome men.

In the fall of 1880 the couple reached Tombstone, Arizona Territory, where one year later Holliday would participate in the legendary gun battle that has become known to history as the Gunfight at the O. K. Corral.

According to a purportedly primary source published in 1993, in Tombstone "Kate...was a successful gambler in her own right."²⁸ However, determining the credibility of the statement is impossible due to the fact that the source, *Wyatt Earp's Tombstone Vendetta*, is classified by its editor/compiler/author Glenn G. Boyer as a "nonfiction novel." Furthermore, no other evidence has been turned up to substantiate the claim and, as previously mentioned, female gamblers were extremely rare on the frontier.

A Tombstone denizen, Joseph Francis Chisholm, would recall in his memoirs a never-before-repeated amusing anecdote concerning Kate and a young Tombstone boy. One day Doc approached the child with a note to Kate and told him: "If you bring me an answer, Billy, I'll give you a dollar." Upon delivering the note, Billy witnessed Kate fly into a rage at its content. Obviously unconcerned about the boy's innocence, she vehemently cursed Holliday. Seeing his opportunity for financial gain slipping away, Billy pleaded with Kate. "Just send him a piece of paper. Miss, if you only put your name on it, so's I kin get that dollar," he said.²⁹ Kate laughed uproariously at Billy's begging. Upon regaining her composure, she wrote out an insulting reply to Holliday and Billy went on his way. The child thereafter got his tip. Such behavior would have been completely characteristic of Kate. However, Chisholm's *Brewery Gulch: Frontier Days of Old Arizona, Last Outpost of the Great Southwest*, cannot be accepted as a historical source without reservation. The book contains a significant number of factual errors and unsupportable opinions.

Life in Context

Perhaps the most glaring omis-

sion of those who have written on Kate has been the failure to properly discuss her life in the context of the times in which she lived. In her *Journal* article Robinson breached the subject with some insightful comments. However, more needs to be said on this issue.

The vast majority of women on the frontier were part of family units and did not earn a living. With very few exceptions, the small group of frontier females who supported themselves were restricted to the vocations of domestic servant, dressmaker, laundress, milliner, prostitute, seamstress, teacher, and waiter girl. Prostitutes were the only sizeable segment of the frontier's female workforce who can be said to have significantly rebelled against the oppressive gender role that Americans of the staid Victorian era sought to impose upon women of the day. However, to say that Kate simply rebelled against this gender role would be a grave understatement.

When Kate was just seventeen, she left her stepparents and siblings behind and ran away from home for good. Such behavior among teenagers is sadly too common today. However, at a time when women were impressed with the notion that nature made them necessarily dependent upon men and most females lived at home until they married, it took astonishing courage for a seventeen-year-old female to strike out on her own.

The place where Kate decided to make a new life for herself after leaving home offers further insight into her uniquely rebellious personality. She chose the American frontier, an environment in which even the most physically powerful, mentally strong, and self-reliant of individuals often found life to be completely unforgiving.

Kate's decision to make a living as a dance hall girl and prostitute once she reached the "Wild West" made her a complete social outcast among those who considered themselves to be among the respectable elements of the communities in which she lived. However, quietly accepting such a position near the bottom of the social ladder was not for Kate. Her volatile and abusive relationship with Doc Holliday, alcoholic existence, wild behavior, and propensity for violence, combined with her noteworthy nose to make her one of the most notorious saloon girls of Kansas, Texas, the New Mexico Territory, and the Arizona Territory.

Kate's choosing Holliday as a love interest is another significant

indicator of her contempt for her society's expectations. Holliday was an outlaw who in his day was as infamous as Jesse James. He was also tubercular, impetuous, violent, profane, an alcoholic, and had a reputation for being exceptionally quick and deadly with a six-gun. He was certainly not the type of proper Victorian gentleman that a Victorian woman was instructed to seek out.

In 1887 Holliday died of his disease and Kate reached the age (her late thirties) at which prostitutes began to become too old to practice their vocation. Probably due to their realization that they no longer had a place in society, many committed suicide when they reached this stage of their careers.

Kate did no such thing. Instead

she buried her identity as "Big Nose Kate" Elder and became the respectable citizen Mary Katherine Harony (her birth name). She subsequently married a blacksmith and worked as a cook and shop operator during an eleven-year marriage. After leaving her husband she took up work as a cleaning woman. As a senior citizen during the Great Depression, she gained admittance into the Arizona Pioneers Home. As a ward of the state she lived out the last years of her life in relative comfort before passing on in 1940.

Kate was a survivor. But more than that she was a woman who survived on her own terms at a time when few of her gender did likewise.

Notes

1. Glenn G. Boyer, "Frontier 'Lost Person' Found," *True West* (November, 1992): 20-23.
2. Ibid., *Wyatt Earp: Family, Friends & Foes, Volume 1: Who was Big Nose Kate?* (n.p., 1997): 16.
3. Michael M. Hickey, *The Cowboy Conspiracy to Convict the Earps* (Honolulu, 1994): 102.
4. Ben T. Traywick, *John Henry (The "Doc" Holliday Story)* (Tombstone, 1996): 55.
5. Olivia Robinson, "She Did It Her way - Doc's Woman," *The Western Outlaw-Lawman Journal* (Fall Winter, 1996): 24-28.
6. Boyer, "Lost Person" 20-23.
7. Ibid., *Who was Big Nose Kate?*, 16.
8. Traywick, *John Henry*, 54.
9. Robinson, "Doc's Woman," 24-28.
10. Boyer, "Lost Person," 20-23.
11. Ibid., *Who was Big Nose Kate?*, 16.
12. Traywick, *John Henry*, 54.
13. Robinson, "Doc's Woman," 24-28.
14. Glenn G. Boyer, "On the Trail of Big Nosed Kate," *Real West* (March, 1981): 14-20, 50.
15. Traywick, *John Henry*, 55.
16. Boyer, "Lost Person," 20-23.
17. Traywick, *John Henry*, 55.
18. Robinson, "Doc's Woman," 24-28.
19. Boyer, *Who was Big Nose Kate?*, 16.
20. John Myers Myers, *Doc Holliday* (Boston, 1955), 70.
21. Ed Bartholomew, *Wyatt Earp, 1848 to 1880, The Untold Story* (Toyahvale, TX, 1963), 308.
22. Bob Boze Bell, *The Illustrated Life and Times of Doc Holliday* (Phoenix, AZ, 1994), 18: For verification of the fact that the "Kate" mentioned in the Shackelford County District Court Docket in question is not identified other than by first name, see Pat Jahns, *The Frontier World of Doc Holliday: Faro Dealer From Dallas to Deadwood* (New York, 1957), 56.
23. Eugene Cunningham, *Triggernometry: A Gallery of Gunfighters* (Caldwell, Idaho, 1962), 113.
24. Harry Sinclair Drago, *Wild, Woolly & Wicked* (New York, 19), 304.
25. J. Marvin Hunter, *The Story of Lottie Deno: Her Life and Times* (Bandera, Texas, 1959), 41.
26. Alford E. Turner, ed. *The Earps Talk* (College Station, Texas, 1980), 4.
27. Ben T. Traywick, *John Henry (The "Doc" Holliday Story)* (Tombstone, 1996), 51.
28. Glenn G. Boyer, *Wyatt Earp's Tombstone Vendetta* (Honolulu, Hawaii, 1993), 195.
29. Joseph Francis Chisholm, *Brewery Gulch: Frontier Days of Old Arizona, Last Outpost of the Great Southwest* (San Antonio, 1949), 129.

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From the NOLA Mailbag (continued from page 2)

On to other things...has NOLA ever thought of publishing a directory of members and sending it with renewals? If it's nothing more than computer generated sheets stapled together and sent with each membership renewal (to eliminate an extra mailing), it would be of immense value to all of us. Sometimes, we just need to have access to one another's physical and e-mail addresses and phone numbers....Looking forward to the next NOLA Quarterly, as usual; I've run out of something to read.

Sharon Cunningham

Union City, Tennessee

Editor's note: To answer Sharon's questions, you may phone her at: 901-885-7499 (home), 901-885-0700 (work, the Dixie Gun Works), FAX at 901-885-0440, or e-mail: sharon@usit.net. To learn other NOLA members' interests contact Bob DeArment, 5912 Brookson Road, Sylvania, OH 43560-1704. Phone: 419-885-4839. A list of current NOLA members with mailing addresses is available on request by NOLA members from Secretary Rick Miller, 1201 Holly Court, Harker Heights, TX 76548-1538. Or you can e-mail him at MILLRPAULA@aol.com.

Call out the Pinks!

We had Charles Siringo, Tom Horn, and William Pinkerton all fighting crime at one point in the latter part of the 19th century. Now we need them again—in England! NOLA member R. M. Jayne recently ordered a NOLA belt buckle from Treasurer Bob Ernst. The buckle arrived but in a damaged and tampered package! Other mail Mr. Jayne has received has been tampered with, but luckily the NOLA mailings have arrived. In a recent telephone call to your editor he expressed his anger, to put in mildly, that anyone would dare tamper with a package containing a NOLA belt buckle. He has not only complained to postal authorities in Gloucester but has gone to London as well. Mr. Jayne is an avid collector of many things western—his collection deals with gold mining, stamps, post cards, calendars with a cowboy theme, freight lines, Wells Fargo, Western wild life. If you have the old issues of such magazines as *Relics*, *Gold*, *Badmen*, you might find it worthwhile to contact him. He is at: Oak View Ruardean Hill, NR Dry Brook, Gloucester, GL 17 9 AP England. Telephone 01-594-544-370.

NOLA Grant

At the winter meeting, the NOLA Directors established the NOLA Research/Writing Grant, the purpose being to provide funding for western history enthusiasts to pursue new research and subsequent writings in keeping with NOLA goals.

Although primarily for the support of beginning researchers, any NOLA member may apply.

Based on the June 30, 1998, fiscal report, funds available for awards will be announced at the Rendezvous Banquet, and applications will be accepted until May 1, 1999. Applicants will be required to submit a reasonably comprehensive typed narrative that includes personal background information, the genesis of curiosity concerning the proposed topic, general involvement in lawman and outlaw history inquiry, research sources, and other information that may be of merit. Applicants must also include an estimated budget, financial need, and areas into which potential funding would be applied.

The first awards will be announced at the 1999 Rendezvous Banquet. Amounts ranging from \$500-2,500 are planned for successful applicants.