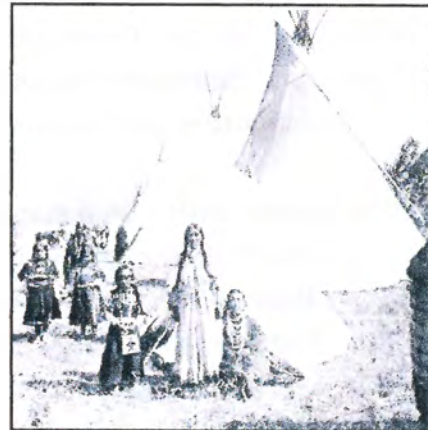


# When Bonner Was Young

Week II, March 11, 2009  
Bonner School



- Native trails
- Stevens Railroad Survey
- Mullan winters at Milltown
- And???



## The Song of Bonner

Well, you've got your:

Thibodeau, Cadieux, Cyr and Levesque. ... This is the song of Bonner.  
Heikkila, Bergseth, Karkanen, Hamma. ... Here is the song of Bonner.

The Suomi Club and George's Café.

Riverside Park, where the band used to play.  
Painting the B, the old Engine Shay.  
Join in the chorus to Bonner.

The Margaret Hotel, the Club Chateau -- oh,  
the Black Bridge and second Red Bridge,  
Blue Slide and Heaven, Marco Flats picnics.  
These are the lyrics of Bonner.

Akin and Beadle and Castonguay, Disbrow and Erkkila.

Fleming and Gendrow, Hill, Inman, Jones,  
Kattelus, Labbe and Moe. Niemi, Otto, Petaja, and Ranstrom,  
Secrist, Toivonen, Unger and Violette. Wisherd, and ol' Arnold Zaugg:  
the ABCs of Bonner.

A one-armed ballplayer named Kelly Pine; Ritchie Fontaine Fights Tonight.

Log-rolling contests, workup and cutthroat,  
These are the games of Bonner.

Akerson, Anderson, Big Nels Abrahamson, Carlson, Dodson, Erickson, Gunderson,  
Hanson, Iverson, Jacobson, Johnson, Larson, Magnusson, Madsen and Matson,  
Mikkelson, Nelson, Olson and Otterson. Pearson, Peterson, Robinson.  
Salmonson, Sampson, Swanson and Thompson.

Daughters and sons of Bonner.

Wood smoke wafts on a summer night's breeze.

The trail back home is coated with leaves.

Roars of an ice break on rivers upstream.

Tadpoles stir gladly in the frog pond ... these  
are the seasons and songs of Bonner.

## Bonner Timeline

**1806** – July 4: Meriwether Lewis and nine men from the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery ride horseback through the Bonner area from Missoula on their way up the Blackfoot.

**1807 or 1808** – Trapper Charles Courtin comes from the Three Forks area to establish post near Dixon. Killed by Blackfeet there in 1810.

**1841** – Sept. 21 (?). Father Pierre DeSmet passes through Bonner en route to establish mission in Bitterroot.

**1853** – Sept. 25 or 26. Gov. Isaac Stevens passes from Fort Benton via Cadotte Pass, en route to Fort Owen and Tacoma.

Sept. 27 or 28: Lt. John Mullan comes through with 4 Salish guides, en route from Musselshell to meet Stevens at Fort Owen and to set up Cantonment Stevens.

**1854** – Jan. 9: Mullan, after traveling south to Fort Hall, then north through Beaverhead and Deer Lodge Valleys, comes back through Bonner en route to newly built Cantonment Stevens.

**1855** – Stevens passes through from the Flathead Council at Council Grove en route to Blackfeet Council

**1860** – Jan. 8: Captain John Mullan crosses Blackfoot in first trip to construct Mullan Road from Fort Walla Walla to Fort Benton. He writes: “There were no difficulties for wagons to get in and out of the river; the depth of the water was two feet in the channel.”

**1861-62 (winter)**: Capt. John Mullan establishes winter camp, called Cantonment Wright, near mouth of Blackfoot on second sweep along Mullan Road. Builds 235-foot bridge with four spans.

**1863** – German-born Daniel Bandmann makes first appearance on an American stage as an English-speaking Hamlet, at Niblo’s Garden in New York City. Twenty five years later, Bandmann “retired” to ranch in Bonner area.

**1874** – C.P. Higgins and brother own Blackfoot bridge and charge toll to cross it.

**1881** – Aug. 19: During construction of Northern Pacific Railroad across Montana, NP awards lumber contract to Eddy, Hammond and Co. (Company was E. L. Bonner) to build line from Garrison Junction to Thompson Falls. Mills were immediately built at Clinton and Bonita.

**1882** – Aug. 1: Montana Improvement Company formed by Andrew Hammond, Richard Eddy, E.L. Bonner, M.J. Connell, Marcus Daly and Washington Dunn. The Company was separate from Eddy, Hammond and Co.; set up to exploit timber available from NP land grant, some 14 million acres in Montana alone.

Hiram Farr claims land and water rights at future site of Bonner mill.

**1880s** – Andy Vote homesteads on Bandmann Flats. Sold option to Jacob Rehder in 1886, who sold to Daniel Bandmann in 1888.

**1883** – Northern Pacific railroad is built through Bonner/Milltown. Crossed Clark Fork at present Bandmann Bridge, then recrossed in Pine Grove near present home of Bob and Phyllis Heyer. Blackfoot bridge for NP built where Highway 200 bridge is today. Remained there until 1908 or ‘09.

**1884** – May: Montana Improvement Company buys land for future dam and mill from Hiram Farr, reportedly for \$100 and a cow.

September: Montana Improvement Company (MIC) announced plans to build a dam to hold logs one-half mile above the confluence of the Blackfoot and Clark Fork. Dam was completed by November under direction of Robert Coombs (who later built the first tavern and saloon at Bonner and operated it for many years; known as the Bonner House.)

Zaugg family travels by train from Missouri to settle in West Riverside.



## INTERNET LINKS

### **The Mullan Report**

Capt. John Mullan published a comprehensive account of the building of the road.  
[www.narhist.ewu.edu/mullan\\_report/mullan\\_report\\_home.html](http://www.narhist.ewu.edu/mullan_report/mullan_report_home.html)

Or Google: *mullan report 1863*

### **Official Explorations for Pacific Railroads, 1853-1855** By George Leslie Albright, 1921

CHAPTER IV: Stevens's Explorations between the 47<sup>th</sup> and 49th Parallels...44

[cpr.org/Museum/Explorations\\_Albright.html](http://cpr.org/Museum/Explorations_Albright.html)

Or Google: *albright explorations pacific railroad*

### **Following Old Trails** By Arthur L. Stone, 1913

Series of Sunday columns, July 1911-April 1912

By editor of the Missoulian & in 1914 the founder of the UM journalism school

[www.archive.org/stream/followingoldtra00ston/followingoldtra00ston\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/followingoldtra00ston/followingoldtra00ston_djvu.txt)

Or Google: *stone following old trails*

### **The Nez Perce Indians and the Opening of the Northwest**, by Alvin Josephy

Traders with and subsequent to Lewis and Clark. Thompson, Courtin, Rivet

Also Isaac Stevens, John Mullan

Google: *Alvin Josephy Nez Perce*

### **New York Times Archives 1851-1980**

Free downloads from 1851-1922

<http://query.nytimes.com/search/query?srchst=p>

Google: *new york times article archives 1851*

### **Bonner School/Jack L. Demmons Photo Collection**

1,420 photos of Bonner

<http://content.lib.umt.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/demmons>

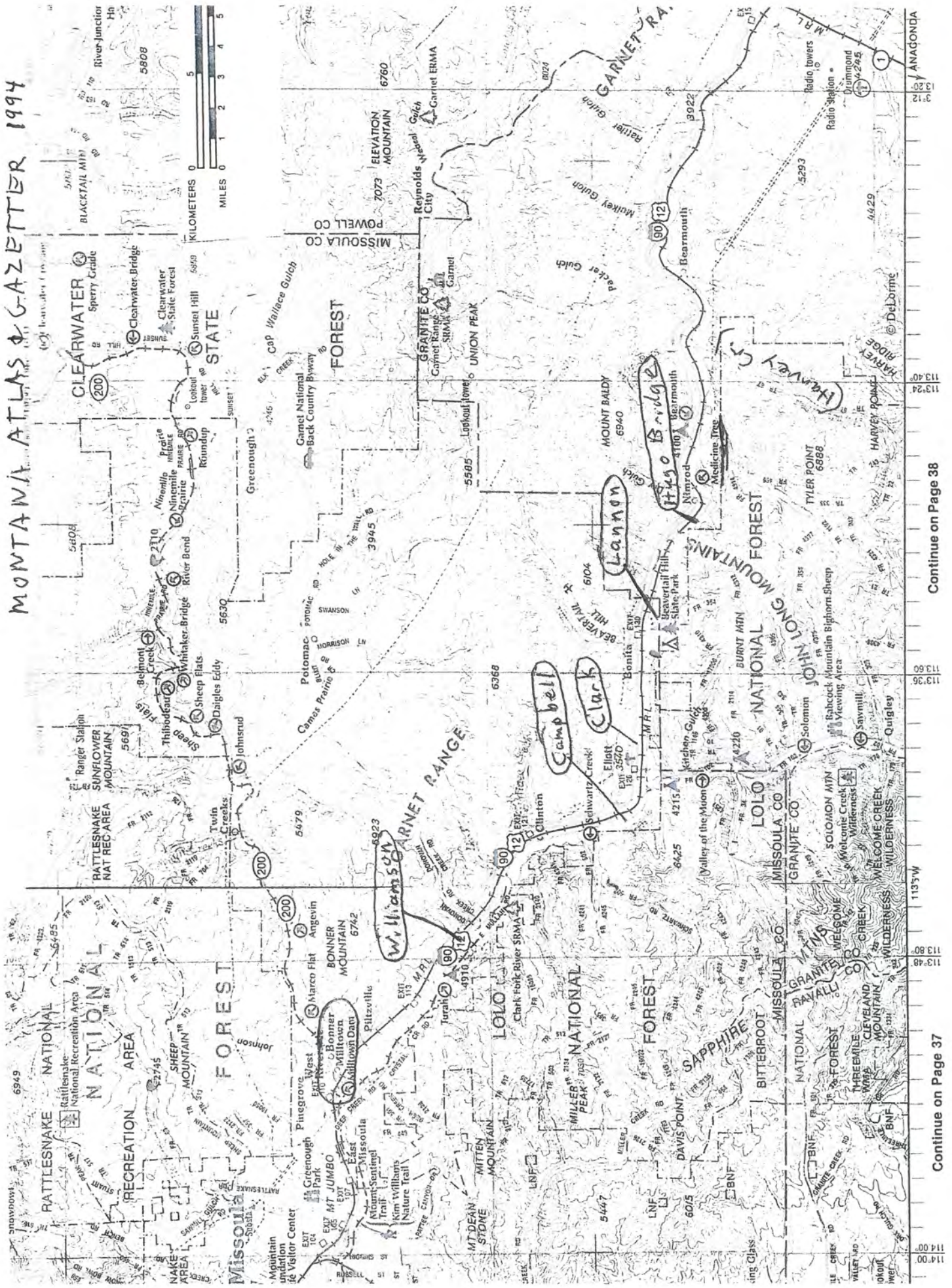
Google: *bonner demmons collection*







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