

BONNEVILLE  
COUNTY *Heritage*  
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter, Volume V

February, 2016

We hope you enjoy this issue of the BCHA Newsletter. Also check out our website [www.bonnevilleheritage.org](http://www.bonnevilleheritage.org).

**TOUCH THE PAST AND ENGAGE THE FUTURE**

Welcome to you as members of the Bonneville County Heritage Association (BCHA). This newsletter is for you as well as the many people we hope will join and become members of BCHA.

Once again, it is time for Idaho Day. This annual Idaho Day celebration will happen because of legislation passed by Representative Linden Bateman establishing March 4 as Idaho Day with celebrations throughout Idaho.

Idaho Day 2016 – Idaho Heroes program will be held **Friday, March 4, at 7 pm** in the Idaho Falls Civic Auditorium. With the theme of Idaho Heroes, ten individuals and businesses will be receiving plaques for the contributions they have provided in helping build Bonneville County.

A silent auction will also be held at the Civic from 5 to 6:30 pm and the student contest entries will also be on display. The silent auction, under the direction of BCHA Board member, RoseMarie Doxey, and our sponsors are so important because that allows BCHA to fund the various activities and programs that we hold.

Those ten Idaho Heritage Heroes that we will honor are: Richard Adams, Johnson Brothers Planing Mill Inc., LaDean Harmston, Representative Linden Bateman, Post Register, Chesbro Music Company, Idaho Falls Rockettes, D. V. Groberg Company, Idaho National Laboratory and Farr Candy Company. These individuals and businesses have provided years and years of service for our county and state. It is our plan to honor additional Heritage Heroes at each of our Idaho Day programs.

Also receiving Heritage Achievement Awards will be Mary Jane Groberg Fritzen for her years of service in our county and BCHA and as an author. Also, an Achievement plaque to Bill Rigby for his preservation of the O. E. Bell Building after it had remained unused for 18

years. And, our third Achievement plaque to the Bonneville County Commissioners for their efforts in continuing to preserve the heritage and classical structure of our County Court House.

As you enter for the program on March 4, you will be greeted with music by the Idaho Old Time Fiddlers. This outstanding group of musicians have provided music for many of our programs. We will also have the Bonneville County Sheriff's Office involved by doing the presentation of the colors with their color guard and the pledge of allegiance by Sheriff Paul Wilde.

One of our goals at BCHA is to get the youth involved. We do this in two ways. The first, is the outstanding student choir that Jennifer Korenke-Stanger organizes. She is the District #91 Elementary Music Specialist, and the student choir this year will be students from Erickson and Westside Elementary Schools. They will perform "You're A Hero", "Here We Have Idaho", and "This Land is Your Land". The second way we get the youth involved is the Student Contest chaired by BCHA Board member Todd Brown, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator for School Dist. #91. This year there have been 215 entries by students throughout schools in Bonneville County. The junior and senior division winners of these contests will receive cash prizes.

Please join us on Friday, March 4 for an evening of entertainment and education about Idaho and Bonneville County.

By Ann Rydalch, Chair, Bonneville County Heritage Association

**SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW BONNEVILLE COUNTY?**  
**Here's a Quick Quiz**

**By David Nipper, BCHA Webmaster**

Our County is named for an explorer named Benjamin Louis Eulalie de Bonneville. He was a Captain in the U. S. Army. He was given official leave to explore the West and led an expedition into our region in 1832. These questions relate to his travels in the region as outlined in his journals, which were organized into a book by Washington Irving, published in 1837, "The Adventures of Captain Bonneville".

1. Captain Bonneville was:
  - a. The first person to explore west of the Rockies.
  - b. First to lead a company of wagons up the Oregon Trail route and over South Pass.
  - c. The first U. S. Citizen to see the Yellowstone Caldera.
  - d. Promoted by the Army for his service in scouting the area and its native warriors.
  
2. Captain Bonneville had Native Americans in his party, and was aided at times by others he encountered in his travels. These included members of the following nations:
  - a. Nez Perce and Flathead
  - b. Bannack and Shoshone
  - c. Delaware and Iroquois
  - d. All of the above
  
3. True or False: While traveling to the vicinity of Pierre's Hole, Captain Bonneville was able to plot his position precisely. He obtained his latitude by measuring the angle of the Sun, and his longitude by observing the moons of Jupiter through a telescope.
  
4. During the course of his explorations, Captain Bonneville sent a party of 40 men to circumnavigate and explore the Great Salt Lake to our South. These men succeeded in:
  - a. Mapping the lake and tributary streams, naming the Bonneville Salt Flats in the process.
  - b. Gathering hundreds of beaver pelts to help pay for the expedition.
  - c. Establishing friendly relations with all the Native Americans they encountered.
  - d. Visiting the Spanish settlements at Monterey Bay on the California coast and watching the bullfights.
  - e. Answers a, b, and c are all correct.
  
5. In December of 1832, Captain Bonneville led a party of men along a branch of the Salmon River to John Day's Defile, where they struggled up the John Day Creek and then down Godin's River to a vast snow-covered plain. They crossed the plain and camped in the lee of a butte, then headed east to a river. On January 13, 1833, traveling a few miles up the river, they found an area with good pasture and herds of buffalo. There were trees, thickets, rushes, and meadows in an area with much game and milder weather. Where were they?

(Answers are found on page 8)

## **Idaho Heroes: Edith Lovell and Captain Bonneville**

By Mary Jane Fritzen

My Idaho history heroes pertain to Bonneville County, so I will nominate two: 1. Captain Benjamin Bonneville, and 2. Edith Lovell, who wrote about Bonneville County and about Benjamin Bonneville.

To learn about the county's namesake, one usually goes to well-known sources, such as the Internet and *The Adventures of Captain Bonneville* by Washington Irving. Published first in 1837, a later edition is titled, "Adventures of Captain Bonneville, Digested from His Journals by Washington Irving." It is therefore co-authored by Irving and Bonneville. Bonneville explored our intermountain area, 1832-1835, during the fur-trapper period. Although commissioned by the U. S. Army for this exploration, he missed his required return date and so had more adventures trying to get re-instated into the army, but succeeded to do so. Born in France, Bonneville was brought to the U.S. by his mother in 1802 when about 6 years ago and grew up in close association with Thomas Paine of Revolutionary War fame in the New York area.

A graduate of West Point, Bonneville was a soldier most of his life. Although Irving's book relates a delightful account of Bonneville's explorations, Lovell's book gives more of his life story. For example, he was married in 1842 to Miss Ann Callender in Pennsylvania when she was 31 and he was 46.

When Bonneville County was formed in 1911, it was named for the hero, Benjamin Bonneville. In 1963, in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Idaho Territory, the Bonneville County Centennial and Historical Commission, appointed Edith Haroldsen Lovell to write a history of the county. The result, "Captain Bonneville's County," was published. Lovell was a local writer and historian living in Ririe. She prefaced her book:

"Glean with us the early records, the trappers' journals, the old-timers' diaries, the files of the newspapers, the pioneer reminiscences.

"May you feel, with us, the rhythm of the passing years, the wonder of the seasons of life in this ancient and changing universe."

Edith later researched and wrote a wonderful biography of Captain Bonneville, published in 1992, "Benjamin Bonneville, Soldier of the American Frontier." When she died in 2002, Edith's family published a collection of her poetry, "Hollyhocks by the Roadside," in her memory. It includes the following biography: "Edith Haroldsen Lovell was born December 16, 1913, in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Second of six children, she grew up helping on the family farm. Times were hard. With only two dresses, baking soda for toothpaste, and a strong desire to get an education, she pursued her two-year teacher's certificate. She taught at the Buck School near Ririe, Idaho, where she met George E. Lovell. They married and raised their family of three girls and one boy on their ranch home in Ririe Idaho.

"Edith loved to write. Many of her poems and short stories were published in various magazines and newspapers in the 1930's and 1940's. She researched and authored two historical books: *Captain Bonneville's County*, a history of Bonneville County, published in 1963, and *Benjamin Bonneville, Soldier of the American Frontier*, published in 1992. Her later years were spent writing family histories. . . ."

Biography is my favorite form of literature and Edith's biography of Captain Bonneville is a pleasure to read. Sure, it is well researched—I counted 118 books she used in her bibliography in addition to 22 booklets, periodicals and newspapers. Her original research particularly derived from 18 sets of microfilms she found in the National Archives, specifically detailing his military career. But it is her creative thinking that endears the book to me. Why did Edith devote such long hours to her study of Bonneville? She was motivated by what she had learned when writing the earlier history of Bonneville County. She begins her first chapter of the Benjamin Bonneville biography as follows:

"Washington Irving has already written about Bonneville. Is there any more to be said? Well, yes. Talented Irving spotlighted one endeavor with wit and verve, but 38 months do not a man's life story tell, nor lend dimension to a personable immigrant whose years and efforts spanned the blossoming of America."

Used copies of "*Captain Bonneville's County*" are available at Amazon.com." Copies of *Benjamin Bonneville, Soldier of the American Frontier* also are available at Amazon.com. I highly recommend them.

Mary Jane Fritzen



### **Edith Haroldsen Lovell**

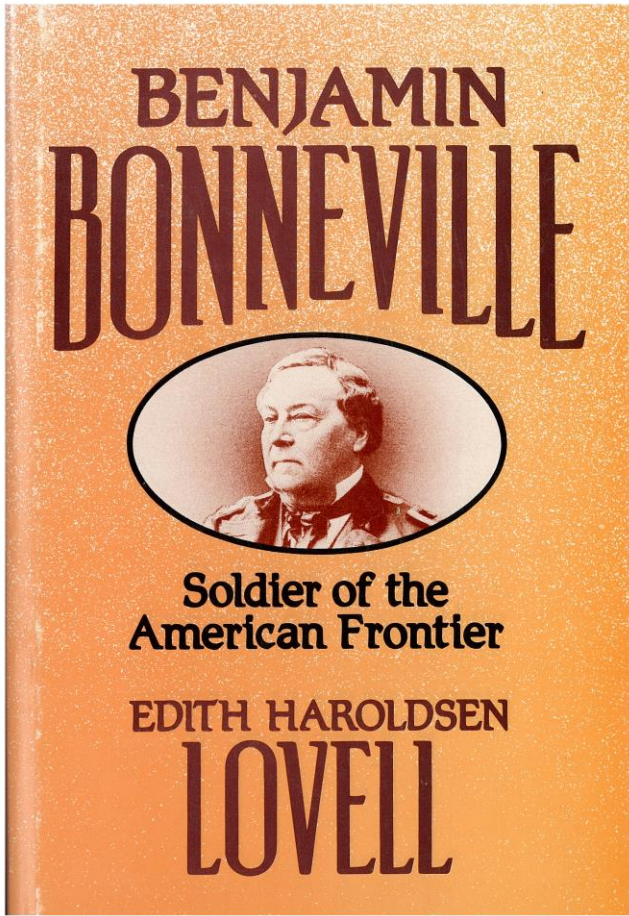
A lifetime lover of books and history, Edith Lovell graduated from the Southern Branch of the University of Idaho at Pocatello, working during the summers for Idaho Falls newspapers, the *Post-Register* and the *Commoner*.

Edith taught grade school in eastern Idaho at Shelton, near Ririe. She married George Everett Lovell and they became the parents of a son and three daughters. The family has always been active in community and church endeavors.

Edith has sold stories and poems to magazines and to the syndicated "Today's Short Story" which appeared nationwide in newspapers. She worked for the *Post-Register* on special editions writing historical articles, and was their "Poem of the Week" editor for a number of years. Her community histories were written as needs and requests arose. A charter member of the Bonneville County Historical Society, Edith helped to establish their museum and served as its director for several years.

A local unit of the Idaho Territorial Commission sponsored her book *Captain Bonneville's County*. Research for the book also sparked her interest in Benjamin Bonneville, for whom the county was named.

Her pursuit of Bonneville's fading footsteps has been an ongoing project. The completion of *Benjamin Bonneville—Soldier of the American Frontier* is the culmination of years of careful research and dedicated scholarship.



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**BCHA BOARD MEMBERS**

- Ann Rydalch, Chair
- Joe Stewart, Vice Chair
- Janet Jensen-Fullmer, Treasurer
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- Steve Taggart, Publicity
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- Rebecca Pyper, Grants & Publicity

**BCHA – WHY BECOME A MEMBER**

Website: [www.bonnevilleheritage.org](http://www.bonnevilleheritage.org)

The Bonneville County Heritage Association (BCHA) began in 2004 when Mary Jane Fritzen gathered a few volunteers, including County Commissioner Dave Radford, and organized the BCHA to begin making plans to commemorate the County Centennial of February 7, 1911. The year-long Centennial celebration ended in November of 2011.

Now, it is our plan to have BCHA continue its voluntary efforts to promote county history and its people. We need your help to do this.

- Your commitment to join BCHA will ensure promotion of the county history and its people for generations to come.
- Members will receive special invitations to BCHA events.
- Members will receive the BCHA newsletter.
- Members will receive special invitations to tours of the County Treasures developed during the Centennial celebration.
- Members will have the opportunity to suggest promotion of specific county heritage projects, its people and its published books.
- Members will help ensure youth involvement.
- Members may serve on committees or as officers.

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Check one: Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: Individual (\$10.) \_\_\_\_\_ Joint (\$20.) \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr. \_\_\_\_\_  
first name middle initial last name

Joint member name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly dues are \$10.00 (January to December calendar basis)  
Make your check payable to BCHA and send along with your membership form to:  
RoseMarie Peterson  
1670 Sviskon Way  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

- I am willing to serve on the following committee(s):
- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ Membership       | _____ Programs           |
| _____ Publicity        | _____ Newsletter         |
| _____ Historian Clubs  | _____ Topical Meetings   |
| _____ Social Events    | _____ Public Information |
| _____ Programs         | _____ Honors and Awards  |
| _____ Fundraising      | _____ Electronic Media   |
| _____ County Treasures |                          |

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BONNEVILLE COUNTY *Heritage* ASSOCIATION

# IDAHO HEROES

## Idaho Day 2016

March 4, 2016 • 7 p.m.  
Civic Auditorium

Free admission & families welcome  
Student contest winners announced

Dora Erickson and Westside elementary choirs to perform

Silent auction  
5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Civic

Proceeds benefit BCHA programs and events



### Hero Award recipients

- Richard Adams for his family's early stagecoach line
- Johnson Brothers Planing Mill Incorporated for 110 years of family business
- LaDean Harnston for Museum of Idaho volunteer work
- Representative Linden Bateman for authoring the Idaho Day legislation and for his years teaching history and serving as legislator
- Post Register for 136 years of publishing
- Chesbro Music Company for 100 years of family business
- Idaho Falls Rockettes for their 1946 efforts as a fast-pitch women's softball team
- D.V. Groberg Company for 87 years of family business
- Idaho National Laboratory for 67 years of historic research and technology development
- Farr Candy Company for 105 years of family business

[www.bonnevilleheritage.org](http://www.bonnevilleheritage.org)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR IDAHO DAY CONTEST WINNERS!**

- Danielle Almgren, Watersprings H.S.—Senior Map Drawing
- Luke Athay, Sunnyside Elementary—Junior Essay, Junior Map Sculpture
- Gracie Carpenter, Watersprings H.S.—Senior Poetry
- Julia Evans, Sunnyside Elementary—Junior Sculpture
- Maria Hansen, Bonneville H.S.—Senior Handwriting
- Eva Jensen, Westside Elementary—Junior Drawing
- Aria Line, Watersprings H.S.—Senior Drawing
- Eva Roybal, Holy Rosary Elementary—Junior Map Drawing
- Anastasia Taylor, Sunnyside Elementary—Junior Handwriting, Junior Oral History Report
- Tayson Kirkham, Sunnyside Elementary—Junior Poetry
- Heather Thom, Watersprings H.S.—Senior Essay
- Kate Traynor, Sunnyside Elementary—Junior Live Presentation
- Clair Tuttle, Sunnyside Elementary—Music Composition
- Jared Wirkus, Sunnyside Elementary—Junior Digital Map

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**ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 2 :**

Answers:

- 1. b
- 2. d
- 3. True
- 4. d
- 5. On the Snake River, probably between what is now Roberts, Idaho, and Idaho Falls.