

**JOHN AND WILLIAM BERKIN
PIONEERS OF MONTANA**



John Berkin

John Berkin - b.1860 in Swannington

SAMUEL T STEWART - 2019

FORWARD

The following interesting death notice appeared in the Nottingham Evening Post. The appended five pages reveal some fascinating information on the past life of these two gentlemen, whose roots were established in **Coleorton and Swannington**. William Berkin and his son John both became pioneers of Montana.

The appended pages no's 4 to 7, provide a surprisingly detailed insight into the pioneering lives of these two gentlemen in Montana, which starts on the first page under **the sub-heading John Berkin**.

William's Father was Thomas Birkin who married Sarah Tugby. They had four sons including William and three daughters. They were obviously an extremely talented and well educated family. One of the sons became chief of police in London and another became a hotel owner in London.

Nottingham Evening Post – December 12th 1927

News has been received of the death of Mr. William Berkin, aged 101, at Montana, U.S.A. Mr. Berkin was a Leicestershire man, having been born at Coleorton on June 26th 1826. He was one of the pioneers of Montana, and had an adventurous career.

It is hoped that as Berkin was / is a local name, then someone may have looked into the genealogy of the families and could furnish the author with further information. He can be contacted via the Griffydam heritage website griffydamhistory.com

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MONTANA

Native Americans were the first inhabitants of the area to become known as the state of Montana. Tribes include the Crows in the south central region, the Cheyenne in the southeastern part of the state, the Blackfeet, Assiniboine, and Gros Ventres in the central and north-central areas, and the Kootenai and Salish in the western sector. The Pend d'Oreille were found around Flathead Lake, and the Kalispel occupied the western mountains.

The US gained control of modern day Montana in 1803

The Lewis and Clark European Expedition of 1804-1806 was the first group of white explorers to cross Montana. Hard on the heels of the expedition arrived the fur trappers and traders. Trappers brought alcohol, disease, and a new economic system to native populations. The fur trade was mostly over by the 1840s due to dwindling supplies of beaver and the loss of popularity of the beaver hat.

Roman Catholic missionaries followed the trappers into Montana. They established Saint Mary's Mission in the Bitterroot Valley, thought to be the first permanent settlement in Montana. They also promoted agriculture and built a sawmill.

The discovery of gold brought many prospectors into the area in the 1860s, and Montana became a territory in 1864. The rapid influx of people led to boomtowns that grew rapidly and declined just as quickly when the gold ran out.

As more white people came into the area, Indians lost access to their traditional hunting grounds, and conflicts grew. The Sioux and Cheyenne were victorious in 1876 at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, and Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce won a battle in the Big Hole Basin (1877). Yet, in the end, the Indians could not hold out against the strength of the United States Army.

Miners weren't the only early settlers in Montana. Cattle ranches began flourishing in western valleys during the 1860s as demand for beef in the new mining communities increased. After 1870, open-range cattle operations spread across the high plains, taking advantage of the free public-domain land.

During the 1880s railroads crossed Montana, and the territory became a state in 1889. Hardrock mining also began at this time. Butte became famous when silver and copper were discovered. The Anaconda Copper Company, owned by Marcus Daly, became one of the world's largest copper mining companies and exercised inordinate influence in the state

house of Jordan, Marsh & Company, where he remained three years, gaining first hand experience in the dry goods line, which served him well after locating at Fargo, Dakota Territory. After three years of dry goods experience there he embarked in the business for himself at St. Cloud, Minnesota. In 1889 he sold his interests there and came to Butte, Montana, in July of the same year coming to Anaconda. Here for two years he was in the employ of the firm of Mahan & Lindsley in the real estate and insurance business, then was an employe of the First National Bank of Anaconda, which later became the banking house of Hoge, Daley & Company. He remained with this institution in various capacities for nine years, when he embarked in the real estate and insurance line on his own account at Anaconda. During his entire previous business career Mr. Wellcome had been associated with business houses of the highest possible standing and his standards of business integrity are firmly grounded. Upon the same sound foundation he has built up his own business, which has expanded into one of the largest enterprises of its kind in this section of the state. In 1914 he incorporated as the Wellcome-Durston Company, of which Mr. Wellcome is president and manager and H. H. Durston is vice president, secretary and treasurer. The company occupies a suite in the Daley Bank annex, No. 110 East Park Avenue. The company handles city real estate and farm loans in Deer Lodge and surrounding counties. A general insurance business is done, and this feature of the business is one of great importance. The firm at one time owned much ranch property but has disposed of it to a large extent, but has heavy investments in city realty.

At Anaconda, in 1895, Mr. Wellcome was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Evans, a daughter of Morgan and Ann Evans, both of whom are deceased. Mr. Evans came to this neighborhood as a pioneer in 1862, driving from Logan, Utah, his team of a horse and cow hitched to a wagon. He homesteaded 160 acres in Deer Lodge Valley, which he subsequently increased to 640 acres. Both he and his wife were born in Wales. Mrs. Wellcome is a graduate of Deer Lodge College, Deer Lodge, Montana. Mr. and Mrs. Wellcome have one son, George P., who was born October 21, 1910. Mr. Wellcome owns his beautiful modern residence, No. 700 Hickory Street, Anaconda.

In addition to business interests already noted, Mr. Wellcome is president of the Anaconda Coal Company, of which H. H. Durston is vice president, and this firm does the largest coal business in Anaconda. As a staunch republican Mr. Wellcome has been somewhat active in party councils, believing good citizenship demands expression in the assumption of political responsibility. He has served four terms on the City Council and has also been school trustee and on many advisory committees. During the great war he was deeply and patriotically interested and was appointed by Governor Stewart a member of the Council of Defense. He was unremitting in his efforts to make the various war measures successful, and was careful and judicious as one of the trustees of the War Chest Fund. Fraternally he is identified with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, belonging to Anaconda Lodge No. 239, and is a member also of the Anaconda, the Anaconda Country and the Rotary clubs.

JOHN BERKIN. The name of Berkin is connected with the pioneer history of Butte and Montana so intimately that it is but proper that an extended notice of the men bearing it appear in a work of this high class. No history of the region would

be complete without an account of the work accomplished by John Berkin, mine superintendent and business man, and his father, William Berkin, who has attained to a venerable age and is the second oldest living pioneer of Montana.

John Berkin was born at Swannington, Leicestershire, England, on April 11, 1860, a son of William Berkin, also born in Leicestershire, the date of his birth being June 14, 1826. He is a son of Thomas Berkin, born in Leicestershire, England, where he spent his long and useful life, and where he died at the advanced age of ninety-three years. During all of his active years he was engaged in farming, and he spent practically all of his life in Leicestershire. A conservative in politics and a Calvinist in religion, he was one of the most conscientious of men, stern, but rigidly upright. He married Sarah Tugby, who was born in Leicestershire, England, and died there at the age of eighty-eight years. Their children were as follows: John, who owned and operated a hotel at London, England, died in that city at the age of seventy-six years; Sarah, who died in Leicestershire, England, at the age of seventy-two years; Thomas, who was chief of police in London, England, where he died at the age of sixty-eight years; Matilda, who died in Leicestershire, England, at the age of sixty-five years; Fannie, who died at Helena, Montana, in 1908, married John Hull, a farmer who died at Boulder, Montana, came with her husband to Montana in the late '80s; William, who is mentioned below; and Jesse, who was a miner, died at Rossland, British Columbia, Canada.

William Berkin attended the schools of his native place, and then served an apprenticeship of seven years to the machinist trade at Glasgow, Scotland, completing it by the time he reached his majority. He then returned to Leicestershire and took the contract for erecting the pumping works at the Calcutta coal mines, and his work was so satisfactory that the company which owned these mines sent him into Derbyshire to put up hoisting and pumping machinery at a town called Clay Cross. Returning to Glasgow, William Berkin had charge of the installation of an engine in the steamship "John Bell," and when this work was completed went on its initial trip as second engineer to Montreal, Canada. Upon his return to England he was employed in the machine shop on the docks at Battersea, London. While there he branched out and became a deep sea diver for the London Dock Company, keeping old lock gates in repair.

William Berkin made another change, removing to Jersey, one of the Channel Islands, and spent some time there as a diver on the construction work of a breakwater. His services were next secured by the French government and he was employed as a diver in putting in an addition to a battery at Cherbourg, France. Once more he returned to England and made two trips out of Southampton, England, to Alexandria, Egypt. Subsequent to that William Berkin was employed in the shops of the Semudas Ship Building Yards at London, England, and while he was there the "Great Eastern" was built in an adjoining ship yard. He helped to put in the engines in the pleasure yacht of Prince Constantine of Russia, and delivered this boat at Odessa, Russia.

Going back to Scotland, William Berkin went from there to Canada in 1859 and began working for the Grand Trunk Railroad as a locomotive engineer. Later he visited Niagara Falls, New York, and Portland, Maine, and still later went to Saint John's and Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Canada, to inspect some mines. It was during 1860 that he made a short stay at Chicago, Illinois, and from there went on south to St. Louis, Missouri, where he secured employment as a locomotive engineer

for the Belleville Railroad, and later was promoted to be master mechanic at the Illinois Town round-house.

The year 1863 marked the arrival of William Berkin into Montana, and for some years his experiences read as an early-day romance. The story of his expedition along the Musselshell River to try and find a better road from Virginia City to the head of navigation of the Missouri River is one of the romances of the early days of Montana. Mr. Berkin is admitted to have endured more hardships, braved more dangers and had more exciting experiences than any of the other pioneers.

William Berkin came out to Fort Benton, Montana, in 1863 for the American Fur Company, a subsidiary of the Hudson Bay Company, and was commissioned to sell a stock of mining tools and supplies which was then in storage at Fort Benson. He hired a negro and a French guide and started his pack train for Virginia City in 1864.

When he arrived there he successfully disposed of the stock, pick handles bringing \$3 each; axe handles, \$3; gold pans, \$5; long-handled shovels, \$5; tobacco, \$8.50 per pound; white flour at \$1 per pound, and other merchandise sold at proportionately high prices. His was the first pack train to make the trip from Fort Benton to Virginia City.

The second trip was made with a bull train of twenty-one teams yoked ten and twenty animals to the wagon. The merchandise which was carried by this train had been brought to Fort Benton by the American Fur Company by boat from St. Louis, Missouri.

About this time Mr. Berkin conceived the idea of finding a better road from Virginia City to Fort Benton by following the Musselshell River. He determined to build a new road, if it could be done cheaply enough, and organized an outfit to blaze the trail. The story of that expedition, as related by Mr. Berkin, is as follows:

"I left Boulder, Jefferson county, February 20, 1865, taking eight hired men and three volunteers. We were equipped with saddle horses, one wagon, five yoke of oxen and supplies for the trip, including rifles and ammunition, one twelve-pound howitzer cannon, two cases of howitzer ammunition and two cases of grapeshot.

"The route was from Boulder by way of Crow Creek, crossing the Missouri River at about where Toston is now. From there we went up Gracing Creek to the summit, where we found heavy snowdrifts. We had to go over steep mountains and often were compelled to let the wagon and cannon down the hillsides with heavy ropes.

"We went on to White Sulphur Springs and over the trail to where Martinsdale is now located. There were no white men in this country. From there we went to a creek about six miles from Martinsdale. It is now called Daisy Dean Creek. Next we reached Haymaker Creek, where we had our first scrap with the Indians.

"We made our camp on March 1. One of the men reported to me that one of the cattle was missing. As it had snowed a little during the night we were enabled to follow the tracks of the Indians who had driven the steer away from the herd. I picked out six of the men and followed the tracks, coming upon the war party in a deep coulee.

"They had not seen us yet, but in the excitement one of my men accidentally discharged his rifle just at the moment I was in the act of firing a shot with my arm through my bridle rein. The bullet from his gun shot my horse through the jaw and the animal pulled me down when he fell. Shooting commenced immediately. I noticed one of the men

standing beside me flinch and I asked, 'Are you hit?' He replied that he was and I told him to keep on shooting as long as he could.

"When the scrap was over we looked him over and found that the bullet had gone through his buckskin shirt and burned a red mark on his ribs, it having been a glancing shot. There were nine Indians in the party and we got four of them down in the coulee. They made hurried exits for the 'Happy hunting grounds.' The others fled up the hill on the other side.

"One of my men, Elmer McLaughlin by name, and myself, crossed the coulee and found on the prairie an Indian lying face down in the snow. McLaughlin was going to shoot him to make sure that he wouldn't recover, but I told him to save his ammunition as we were going after the others who were wounded and were escaping.

"We left our horses and took after them on foot. We soon overtook and disposed of them. When we returned to where we left the horses the Indian who had been lying in the snow supposedly dead had gotten up and escaped with McLaughlin's horse.

"I took my horse and followed him about three miles. I could see blood in the snow occasionally and after awhile I came across his old flint-lock gun which he had discarded. I knew then that he was about gone and just before I caught up with him he fell from the horse. He put up his hands, saying, 'kaka nopin,' which means 'hold on, white man.'

"We left camp next morning and went along the Musselshell valley toward the east end of the Snowy Mountains. We came to a creek which flowed from the Snowies and there made camp. There were some buffalo there and one of the men asked me to let him have a horse that he might try to kill one of them for meat. He did not return in the evening, and I sent two men out to look for him. They found his horse with the saddle still on, and a short distance away the man was found lying in the snow, dead.

"We buried him on this creek and called it 'Careless Creek,' because we surmised that this man's horse had fallen with him and that his gun had discharged itself with the fall, killing him. When the government surveys were made this creek was called 'Careless Creek' in their report.

"We moved from here around the east end of the Snowy Mountains and crossed a creek now known as Flat Willow, and went down another called 'Crooked Creek.' On account of the men being snow-blind, I had to leave all but two, eight miles from Crooked Creek. These two men and myself made it to the mouth of the Musselshell, where it empties into the Missouri River. The river was breaking up and there was a series of immense ice gorges which made it a grand sight.

"We went back to get the rest of the men and prepared to start on our return trip. We made camp on the banks of a small creek which is a tributary to Flat Willow Creek. Here in the night we were again attacked by the Indians, a large band of what we supposed were Blackfeet Indians. We had to crawl down the creek, fighting as best we could until daylight.

"Here we lost another man. After the Indians had been driven off we went back to camp and found that they had killed all of our cattle. They had also taken all of our horses but three, which they had somehow overlooked. They had rendered the wagon useless by knocking out the spokes in the wheels and had sawed the axle of the gun carriage and spiked the gun.

"All of our cooking utensils had been destroyed and our provisions stolen. We made our way with difficulty back to Boulder and a short time later I took one man, saddle horse and pack horses, and brought back the cannon, which was made of brass and weighed about 180 pounds. This was returned to the company and was taken down the river by steamboat to St. Louis.

"The rest of the articles, two cases of grape shot, two cases of shells, a grindstone, log chains and much other stuff we cached under the bank of a tributary of Flat Willow. This cache was discovered a short time ago by my son, T. A. Berkin, and other people living near the place on Flat Willow."

The contents of this cache was later presented to the State Historical Society and placed on display at Helena as one of the mementoes of the pioneer days of Montana.

William Berkin was the man who shipped the first copper ore from Butte, some years after the above related experience, having located the Mountain Chief Mine, from which he took out several tons of ore and shipped it from Butte to Boulder, building a road for this purpose. From Boulder this ore was hauled to Corrinne by bull teams which Mr. Berkin was then operating for the American Fur Company. Shipment was made by railroad from Corrinne to the Atlantic Coast, and by steamship to a point in Wales, where the nearest smelter was located. Mr. Berkin has still in his possession a copy of the bill of lading which he received from the railroad company, and other papers in the deal. This ore was smelted in Wales and Mr. Berkin netted a nice profit from the transaction notwithstanding the heavy transportation charges.

Mr. Berkin built the road from Fort Benton to Virginia City for John J. Roe & Company of St. Louis, Missouri, and continued to freight for this company from 1864 until 1867, between the two points named. From 1867 until 1871 he was engaged in placer mining in Jefferson County, and then began quartz mining in the same county and located some of the first claims in Butte, and operated in and out of what is now Butte from 1866.

The Mountain Chief Mine above referred to as located by him was the second patented claim in the Butte District, and in it he had as a partner Nicholas Wall, of St. Louis, the date of the registration of their patent being June 16, 1868, and they also secured a millsite for the mine, which they owned until 1870. From then on William Berkin has followed placer and quartz mining, and in spite of his advanced age is still engaged in this line of business. As his family record shows, he comes of a long-lived race, and he has not learned that there is such a word as "retire" in the dictionary. He has always been an active supporter of the democratic party. During 1865 and 1866 he rendered an effective public service as deputy United States marshal; he was commissioner of Meagher County from 1886 until 1892; and commissioner at Lewiston when Fergus County was organized, and held that office for two terms of four years each. Mr. Berkin was a member of the first Territorial Legislature of Montana, being elected at Bannock in 1864. For many years a Mason, he belongs to Helena Lodge No. 3, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

In 1850 William Berkin was married in Leicester-shire, England, to Miss Jane Hall, born at Swanington, Leicestershire, England, in 1835. She died at Anaconda, Montana, in 1899, having borne her husband the following children: Fannie, who married

Kenneth McKinzie, foreman of the foundry of the Washoe Reduction Works at Anaconda, Montana; a daughter who died when four years old; John, whose name heads this review; William, who was a rancher, died at Livingston, Park County, Montana, aged twenty-eight years; Thomas A. is game warden for the district of Flat Willow, Fergus County, Montana, and deputy game warden for the State of Montana; Sarah, who married John Allen, watchman of the Orphan Girl Mine at Butte; Eliza, who died at Boston, Massachusetts, married W. R. Allen, ex-lieutenant governor of Montana, but now a resident of Boston, although he has large mining interests in the Elkhorn mining district of Montana and is building a railroad up the Big Hole River, having promoted these large interests, and a sketch of him appears elsewhere in this work; and Hattie, who married Daniel Kirkpatrick, manager of a chain of stores for the Huerfane Trading Company, resides at Alamosa, Colorado.

John Berkin was brought to Fort Benton when only six years old by his mother and oldest sister, who traveled first to St. Louis, Missouri, and thence to Montana, where they joined his father. After a short stay at Fort Benton the family moved to Alder Gulch, and still later to Boulder, Montana. All of his educational training was received at Jefferson City, Montana, and he left school when he was sixteen years old, and for six years was engaged in placer mining in Jefferson County. He then went in for quartz mining in Jefferson, Madison and other counties of Montana until 1878. He carried the mail from Butte to Boulder, making the trips on horseback, and continued at this for over a year, when in 1880 he was appointed deputy sheriff of Fergus County and discharged the duties of that dangerous position until 1882, when he returned to Boulder, and that same year came back to Butte, where ever since he has been connected with mining interests.

Beginning as an underground miner, Mr. Berkin has gained a thorough and intimate knowledge of mining in all its phases and has been an extensive lessor for himself at Butte and in Madison County for several years. In 1915 he became connected with the Anaconda Copper Mining Company as foreman of the Nettie Mine, and in 1916 was made superintendent of the Bonanza and Orphan Girl mines, both properties of that company. The Orphan Girl Mine is located one-half mile west of the Butte School of Mines, and produces silver and zinc.

Like his father a strong believer in the principles enunciated by the democratic party, Mr. Berkin represented Jefferson County in the Seventh Session of the State Assembly as the successful candidate of his party, and was sent to the Eleventh Session of the same body from Silver Bow County on the same ticket. During the labor trouble in 1914 he was appointed sheriff of Silver Bow County at the time when the candidate elected to that office was recalled from office by the people. It was during this period that the Industrial Workers of the World blew up the Miners Union Hall and other buildings and openly defied law and order. It took courage of no ordinary character and a strong personality to bring order out of the chaos then reigning, but Mr. Berkin succeeded in restoring everything to normal conditions, thereby winning his own place in the history of his own times and the gratitude and respect of his fellow citizens.

During the World war Mr. Berkin was very active in assisting in all of the war work and supporting the policies of the administration, and was exceedingly generous in his own contributions to the Liberty Loans and other drives. He also was ex-

tremely, helpful in assisting in suppressing all disloyalty and punishing sedition against the Government. He is a Mason, and also belongs to Butte Lodge No. 240, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Silver Bow Club, and is active in all.

In addition to his other interests Mr. Berkin owns stock in an irrigation project known as the Fergus County Land & Irrigation Company at Flat Willow, Fergus County, Montana, and also in the Little Missouri Irrigation Company in Fallon County, Montana. He is president of the Motor Car Distributing Company of Butte, and in 1907 bought a ranch on the Smith River in Meagher County, and operated it until he sold it to the Story & Work Sheep Company at Bozeman. Mr. Berkin maintains his residence at the Thornton Hotel.

In conjunction with his father's experiences with the Indians it is interesting to learn of his own with the red man. He was reared in a neighborhood occupied by the Nez-Perce Indians and knew their chief, Joseph, so well that he lived among them and learned to speak their language, and became acquainted with other tribes. Mr. Berkin arrived at the battle ground on the Big Hole two days after the massacre of Captain Logan, who was killed outright, and General Gibbons, who was wounded and afterwards died from the effects, and the command in 1877, and assisted in taking care of the wounded and getting them back to Helena, a distance of nearly 200 miles. During 1880 and 1881, although yet a very young man, he was active in suppressing the depredations of horse thieves in what were then Fergus and Meagher counties, and he also participated in several skirmishes with the Indians during the earlier days.

Mr. Berkin has the following children: Nellie, who was graduated from the Boulder High School, married W. G. Whetstone, assistant manager of the Butte Motor Car Distributing Company; Hazel, who was graduated from the Butte High School, married M. R. Hanley, a real-estate operator of Lewiston, Montana; and Isabelle, popularly known as "Mike," who was injured in an automobile accident on September 18, 1919, while on the way from Great Falls to Lewiston, and died on September 22d. She was educated as a violinist at Butte, and was a pupil of Professor Shaddock of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She began playing in public when only eight years of age, and her remarkable talent soon developed to a point that marked her as a true artist. At the age of eighteen years she began her professional career and was starred as "The Girl from Butte." For several years she was on the Orpheum Circuit and had thousands of admirers in Montana and throughout the United States. When she was married to H. W. Berry, she retired from the stage and she and her husband were residents of Butte, Montana. Her death was a distinct blow to many all over the country, as well as to her immediate family and wide circle of personal friends, for she had endeared herself to them all as well as awakened admiration for her talent.

Both John Berkin and his venerable father are men of a remarkable type. Rugged, fearless and upright, they have gone straight ahead doing what they felt to be their duty regardless of personal risk or adverse criticism. Coming into a wild region they had the ability and willingness to take advantage of the opportunities of a newly opened territory, but, while they achieved a material success, they never prospered at the expense of the community, but at all times placed it under obligation to them for their services in behalf of law and order whenever it was necessary. Without such men as these Montana would never have become

the great commonwealth it is today, and consequently the record of their lives is an important part of its history.

C. W. ROBISON. About a year after getting his law diploma from the Chicago Law School Mr. Robison came to Montana and located at Dillon, where for nearly twenty years he has enjoyed a constantly increasing prestige as an able and hard-working attorney.

He was born at Winterset, Iowa, January 22, 1875, and some of his family were among the first pioneers of that state. The Robisons were colonial settlers in Massachusetts. The grandfather, Spencer Robison, was born in Indiana in 1802 and was one of the first men to break the prairie sod and bring the land of Delaware County, Iowa, into productivity. He spent his active career as a farmer and died at Winterset, Iowa, in 1870. His wife was a native of Indiana and also died at Winterset. Four of their children are still living: James, a retired farmer at Manchester, Iowa; Joseph, a farmer in Delaware County; Jennie, wife of Ham Lee of Kalispell, Montana; and W. S. Robison.

W. S. Robison, father of the Dillon lawyer, was born in Delaware county, Iowa, in 1853, and lived there to the age of nineteen, when he removed to Winterset. He lived at Des Moines until 1917, since which year his home has been in Omaha, Nebraska. He is a republican and a member of the Masonic fraternity. He married at Winterset Sarah Guye, who was born in Madison County, Iowa, in 1854. Her father, George Guye, was born in Virginia in 1824 and is still living at Winterset, Iowa, at the venerable age of ninety-five. He and his father and his brother James were the first white men to take up land and settle in Madison County, Iowa. George Guye married a Miss Button, a native of Ohio, who died in Madison County, Iowa. The Guyes are of English ancestry and were early settlers in Virginia. C. W. Robison is the oldest of his father's four children. His brother Charles died in Madison County, Iowa, at the age of three, and his sister Grace died at Dexter, Iowa, aged twenty-six. His only living sister is Frances, who makes her home with her parents at Omaha.

C. W. Robison attended public school at Winterset, graduated in 1891 from the Dexter Normal College at Dexter, Iowa, and took his regular college course in Drake University at Des Moines. He received the degree Bachelor of Oratory from that institution in 1897. Mr. Robison spent one year in the office of Senator A. B. Cummins at Des Moines, and thus came in touch with one of the ablest lawyers and one of the now senior statesmen of the country. Mr. Robison received his LL. B. degree from the Chicago Law School in 1899 and the following year came to Dillon and began his professional career. He served as county attorney during 1903-04, but for the most part has given all his time to his growing private practice. His offices are in the Telephone Building. Mr. Robison is a very prominent member of the Improved Order of Red Men. He belongs to Bannack Tribe, is Great Sachem of the State of Montana, is present Great Keeper of Wampum and for twelve years represented the order in the National Convention.

I. D. O'DONNELL. In August, 1919, the Country Gentleman of Philadelphia, published under the title "The Best Farmer in Montana," a long article concerning I. D. O'Donnell of Billings. Editorially the paper said: "Thoughtful readers have doubtless learned the Country Gentleman's idea of a 'best farmer' from the series of articles under that title.