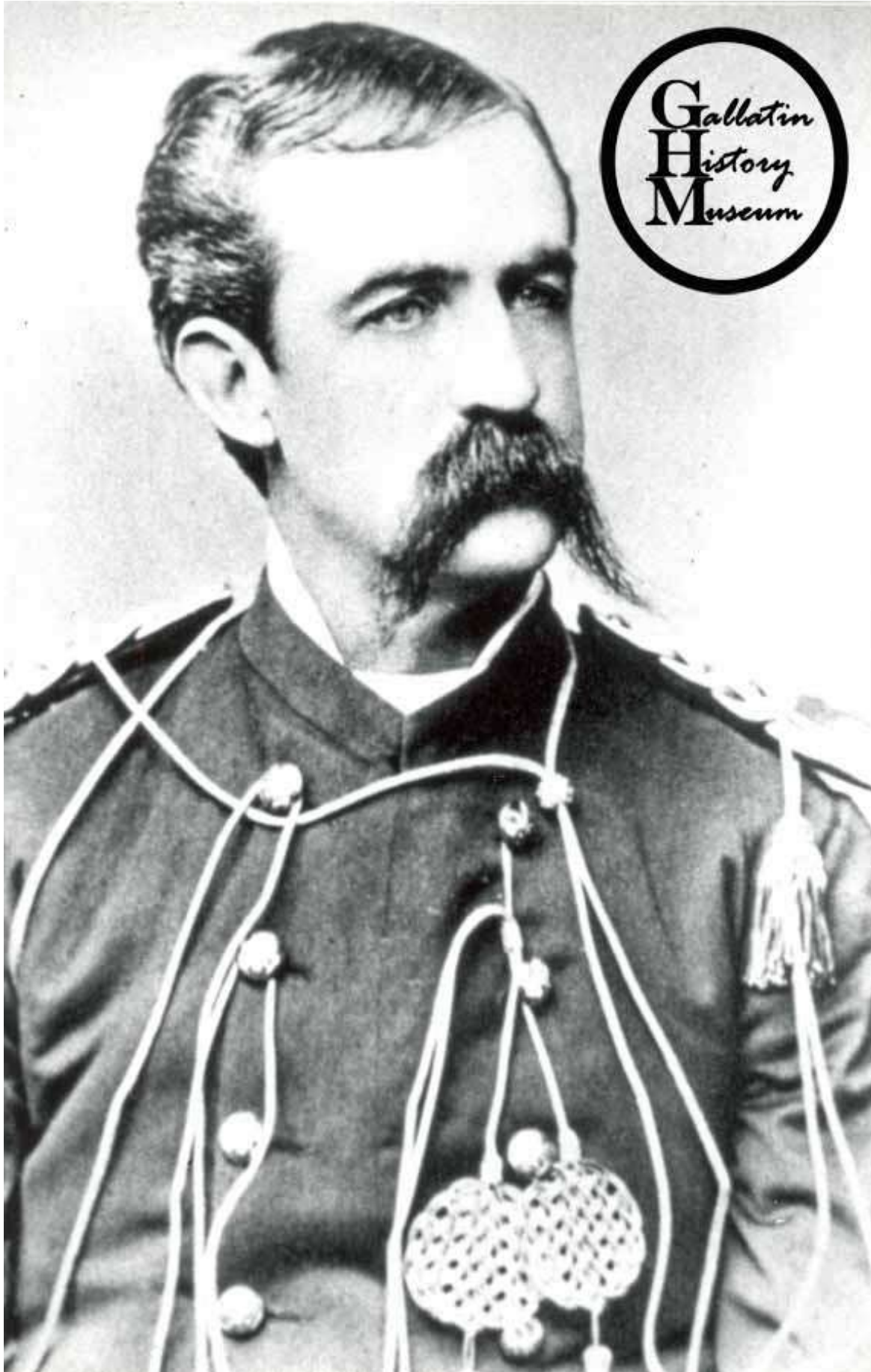


Gustavus Doane

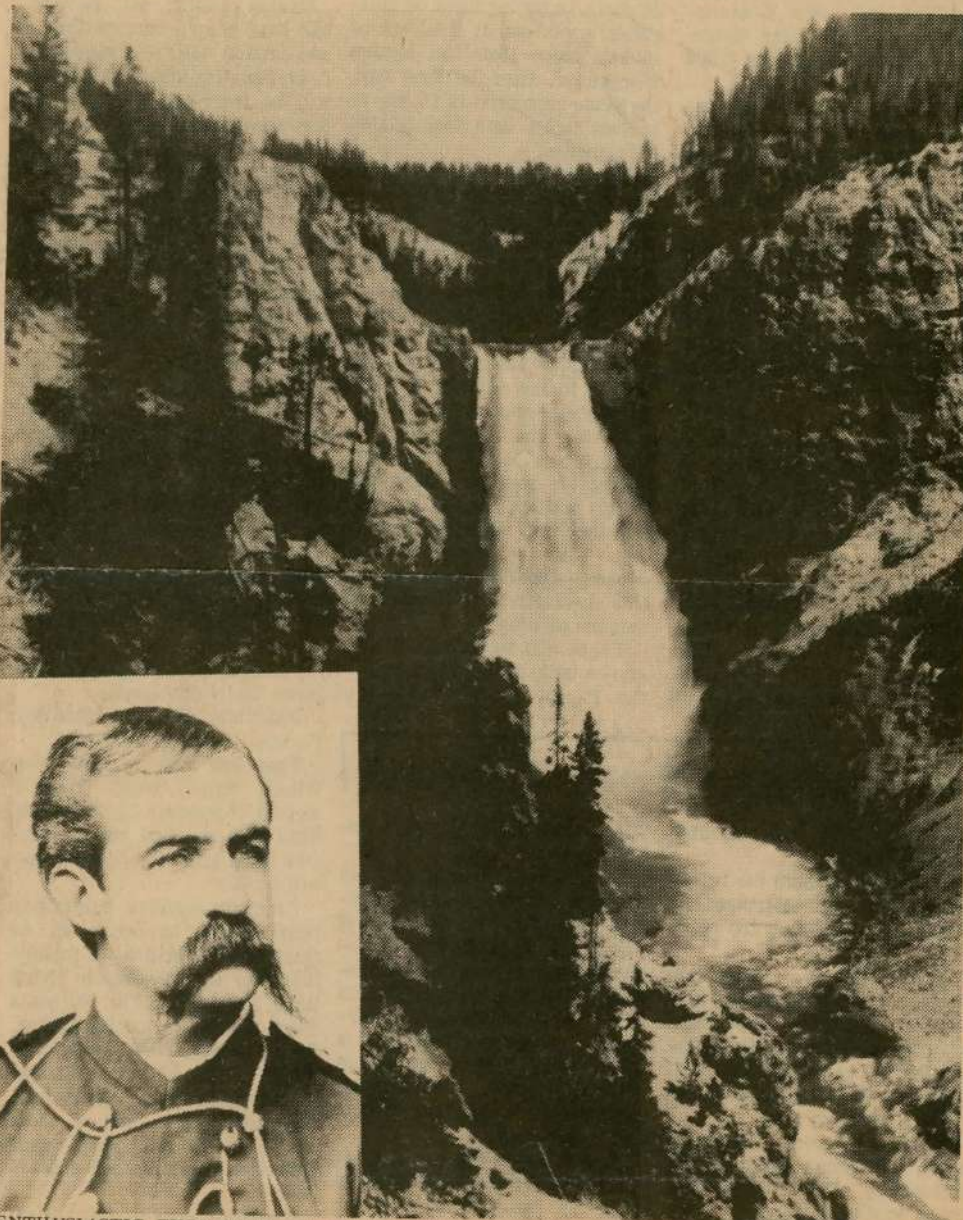




Civil War

Name..... Doane, Gustavus C. Serial No.
Home Address..... Bozeman, Montana
Next of Kin Mrs. Mary Doane (wife) Address..... Bozeman
Born May 29, 1840 At
Date of Death May 5, 1892 Cause *Heart disease*
Buried..... 19 At Sunset Hills Cemetery
City Bozeman County Gallatin
Grave No. Lot No. 15 Block D Section Old
War Record 2nd Mass. Cav. U.S. Army
Branch of Service 2nd Mass. Cav. Rank Capt.
Enlisted Oct. 30, 1862 Discharged Jan. 23, 1865
Information Given By Mrs. Doane, Cem. Records
Remarks.....
Care Assigned to Post No. 14....., American Legion
Govt. Headstone Desired..... Legion Marker Placed.....

A Glance at Yellowstone, Gallatin



ENTHUSIASTIC EXPLORER--Lt. Gustavus C. Doane wrote glowing descriptions of the Lower Falls and other Yellowstone wonders when he led an expedition through the future park area in 1870. The 30-year-old lieutenant's detailed field notes were recently acquired by the

library at Montana State University. These notes formed the basis for a government report which greatly influenced the establishment of Yellowstone as the first National Park in 1872.

By JACKIE LINN

MSU Office of Information

"It is grand, gloomy and terrible; a solitude peopled with fantastic ideas; an empire of shadows and turmoil."

These are the words Army Lt. Gustavus C. Doane used to describe the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River on his 42-day expedition through the park in 1870.

Doane's original field notes were recently acquired by the library at Montana State University, from Dr. Merrill G. Burlingame, professor emeritus of history at the school.

These notes formed the basis for Doane's government report of the expedition, which largely influenced the establishment of Yellowstone as the first national park in 1872.

Historians say Doane's trip was probably the most significant of all Yellowstone explorations. His written report put an end to the circulation of wild and inaccurate tales told by early trappers and prospectors.

The lieutenant's notes are elegantly handwritten, apparently by his scribe. They contain detailed, enthusiastic descriptions of the phenomena observed by the 19-man expedition. A meticulous writer, Doane chose his words carefully, influenced by romantic 19th Century tradition. Take this example of a first-time view of Tower Falls:

"Nothing can be more chastely beautiful than this lovely cascade hidden away in the dim light of overshadowing rocks and woods, its very voice hushed to a low murmur..."

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nize a formal expedition.

The men recruited were reluctant to make the trip without a military escort, however, because several years before members of a prospecting expedition had been attacked, and some killed, by Crow Indians. Doane was therefore enlisted to act as escort.

On Aug. 22, 1870, the expedition left from Ft. Ellis, east of Bozeman.

One can surmise that the men kept a sharp eye out for Indians. Doane writes that "Guards were established during the night, as there were signs of a party of Indians on the trail ahead of us."

Passing out a few tips to sportsmen, Doane records the peculiarities of the Yellowstone trout: "Their numbers are perfectly fabulous, but their appetites extremely dainty. One may fish with the finest tackle of eastern sportsmen, when the water appears to be alive with them, all day long without a bite. Grasshoppers are their peculiar weakness, and using them for bait the most awkward angler can fill a champagne basket in an hour or two."

Climbing a divide that separates Warm Spring Creek from the Yellowstone River, the party overlooked the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Here the young lieutenant records a highpoint of the expedition.

"An object now appeared which drew a simultaneous ex-

pression of wonder from every one in the party," he notes. At first the men thought they saw a fire in the woods, then they noticed that the vapor rose in regular puffs. "A hearty cheer rang out," Doane says when the men realized they had seen their first geyser, or "steam jets" as Doane often calls them.

Looking across the Grand Canyon to the south, Doane wrote "The view . . . strongly resembles that from the Alleghenies overlooking iron and coal districts. . . save one looks in vain here for the thrifty towns, country villas, steamboats and railroad depots."

Nearly 100 years ago before the construction of protective boardwalks for tourists in the park, Doane recounts the hazards of traveling through geyser areas.

"The rocks everywhere were warm and in some places hot to the touch; wherever the horses' feet broke through the crust hot vapor escaped. Everywhere the rocks gave forth a hollow sound beneath our tread, and in many places the intense heat caused them to bulge out in a scaly formation, which broke through on the slightest pressure of the foot, whereupon scalding vapor poured out in such volumes as to cause a hasty retreat."

"Those of the party who sported silver watches now discovered that there were no longer silver, but a greasy, pinchbeck

yellow," he continues, "discolored by the gases in the atmosphere of the spring."

Doane's party is known for being the first to travel completely around Yellowstone Lake. The bears there caught his eye.

"These animals are very numerous in the basin, the green grasses, berries, and pine nuts affording them abundant supplies of food; but our party kept up such a racket of yelling and firing as to drive off all game for miles ahead of us."

In mid-September, the party got a taste of Yellowstone winters. Doane writes that the snow was 20 inches deep, although "the cold was not severe for such an altitude," he says.

"The basin would not be a desirable place for winter residence," he concludes. "The only two men I have been able to find who ever wintered here, both came out affected with goitres in the spring."

Heading back to Fort Ellis,

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Doane passed through the Galatin Valley with words of praise: "This valley is regarded as the finest settled portion of Montana. It is superior in all natural resources to many of the most valuable districts east, and resembles in many respects the Cumberland Valley in Pennsylvania with the exception that nature works on a grander scale in the wild of the West than elsewhere."
"The mountains are higher, the scenery more picturesque, and the air and waters clearer," he says, "than any found east of the Missouri."
Doane summed up the expedition with enthusiastic optimism: "As a country for sight-seers it is without parallel; as a field for scientific research, it promises great results; in the branches of geology, mineralogy, botany, zoology and ornithology, it is probably the greatest laboratory that nature furnishes on the surface of the globe."

Notes from the Museum of the Rockies

Doane's exploration led to cr

For well over a century Bozeman has been the center for outfitting tours to the Yellowstone Park Area. One such trip which would have far reaching importance headed out of Bozeman's Fort Ellis in the summer of 1870. The explorations of this party and their pursuit of an idea generated in a campfire discussion led to the creation of the first National Park, Yellowstone. The leader of the military escort from Fort Ellis was Lt. G. C. Doane and he would remember the Yellowstone Expedition as the high point of his career.

G. C. Doane, as one author put it, was experiencing "exploration restlessness" as he found himself in parts of the west which were only vaguely known. At his previous station on the South Platte River Doane applied for permission to explore the Green River and the rivers below. His request was refused and another man, John Wesley Powell, began the river exploration the same month Doane and the 2nd Cavalry moved out for Fort Ellis, Montana Territory.

Although Doane's plan to explore the Green and Colorado Rivers had been frustrated his urge to explore did not die. At Fort Ellis he found himself within reasonable distance of another area which was virtually unmapped. Since the days of John Colter, Osborne Russell and other fur trappers, the Yellowstone had captured the imaginations of adventurers. In 1859-60 Capt. William F. Reynolds attempted to explore the area; in 1863 W. W. DeLacy mapped a portion of Yellowstone

expedition left Helena for Bozeman and Fort Ellis. The party was made up of General H.D. Washburn, Samuel T. Hauser, Nathaniel Pitt Langford, Cornelius Hedges, Truman C. Everts, Walter Trumbull, Benjamin Stickney, Warren Gillette and Jacob Smith. On Aug. 21 the party was camping near Fort Ellis and the leader of the civilian party, General Washburn, met with Major Baker, the post commander.

Baker complained to Washburn that Fort Ellis was understaffed, most of his men were out fighting Indians, and there was no one to spare. Washburn countered with the fact that the Yellowstone was virtually unknown and the expedition could provide information important to military operations. Washburn also mentioned the orders from General Hancock directing Major Baker to provide the escort. On Aug. 22, Lt. Gustavus Doane led a military escort of five other members of the 2nd Cavalry and the party of nine civilians out of Fort Ellis and in the direction of the Yellowstone.

The Yellowstone Expedition of 1870 had roughly a month in which to explore and map the Yellowstone Area. The progress was rapid and by August 30, "a dull roaring sound warned us that the falls were near at hand." The falls Doane spoke of was the Upper Yellowstone Falls. The next day the lower falls came into view.

Doane enters in his journal that "both of these

...One member of our party suggested that if there could be secured by pre-emption a good title to two or three quarter sections of land opposite the lower fall of the Yellowstone...they would eventually become a source of great profit to

the owner....Mr. Hedges then said that he did not approve of any of these plans--that there ought to be no private ownership of any portion of that region, but that the whole of it ought to be set apart as a great National Park, and that each one of us

ought to make an effort to have this accomplished."

In less than a week most members of the expedition had returned to civilization. The objective of exploring the Yellowstone Region had been accomplished and a new objec-

tive created. Doane was most proud of the expedition.

Reynolds attempted to explore the area; in 1863 W. W. DeLacy mapped a portion of Yellowstone and included it in his 1865 Montana Territory Map; and in 1869 another expedition, the Folsom-Cook-Peterson Expedition, attempted to explore the area.

Doane knew of the previous Yellowstone explorations and believed that there was a great deal yet to discover in the region of the geysers. He was determined however, to lay the necessary groundwork prior to making his request for permission to explore. Doane promoted the project at Fort Ellis but he also developed the interest of important Montana citizens such as Judge H. L. Hersmer, Nathaniel P. Langford, Samuel T. Hauser and Montana's Surveyor General, H. D. Washburn.

Lt. Doane's plans had been well laid and he began to organize his expedition. Historians Orrin and Lorraine Bonney state in their biography of Doane, "Battle Drums and Geysers", that the military involvement in the Yellowstone Expedition did not seem likely in 1870. The Indian frontier was heating up and after the Baker Massacre of Piegans in January, Fort Ellis, Baker's command, was one of the hottest spots in the Northwest. It may have been fear of trouble coming to some of Montana's most prominent citizens if they entered potentially hostile country unescorted or it may have been the result of political string pulling. In any event, Doane received orders "to escort the surveyor general of Montana to the falls and lakes of the Yellowstone and return."

On Aug. 16, 1870, the civilians involved in the

Doane enters in his journal that "both of these cataracts deserve to be ranked among the great waterfalls of the continent. No adequate standard of comparison between such objects, either in beauty or grandeur, can well be obtained. Every great cascade has a language and an idea peculiarly its own, embodied, as it were, in the flow of its waters. Thus the impression on the mind conveyed by Niagra may be summed up as 'overwhelming power'; of the Yosemite as 'altitude'; of the Shoshone Fall, in the midst of a desert, as 'going to waste'. So the Upper Falls of the Yellowstone may be said to embody the idea of 'momentum', and the Lower Fall of 'gravitation'."

The exploration of the Yellowstone Area continued through the Yellowstone Canyon, around Yellowstone Lake, to Old Faithful. Doane's description of this phenomenon as he saw it on Sept. 18, reported, "first an increased rush of steam comes forth, followed instantly by a rising jet of water which attains by increased impulses to the height of one hundred and twenty-five feet, escaping with a wild hissing sound while great volumes of steam rise up to an altitude of five hundred feet from the crater. Rainbows play around the tremendous fountains, the waters which fall about the basin in showers of brillants, then rush steaming down the slopes to the river.

Two days later, Sept. 20, 1870, Langford made an interesting note in his diary. "Last night, and also this morning in camp, the entire party had a rather unusual discus-

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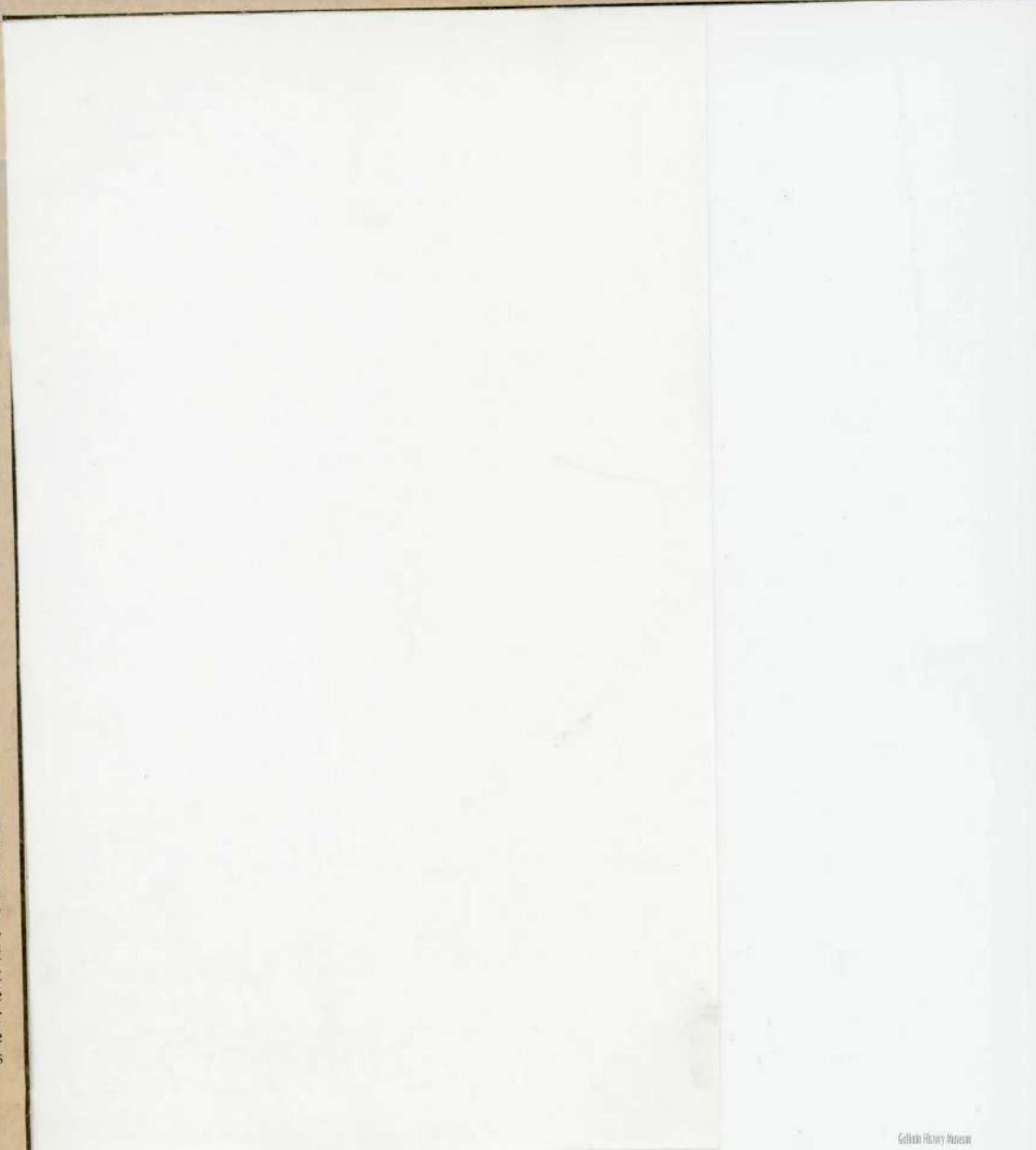
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He also gave lectures on the proposed park to audiences in Washington, D.C., and New York City. Another expedition entered Yellowstone the summer of 1871 and photographer W.H. Jackson returned with photographic images of the

wilderness wonderland. On Dec. 18, 1871, the Yellowstone National Park Bill was introduced. Doane's report and Langford's articles had been distributed. All Senators and members of the house received a volume of W.H. Jackson's Yellow-

stone images. By March 1, 1872, the bill had passed the Senate and House and been signed by President Grant. Lt. Doane's restlessness to explore had not only led him into the Yellowstone region but led his country to its first national park.

Captain Gustavus C. Doane, 2nd Cavalry, came to Fort Ellis in 1869 with the first cavalry detachment assigned to Montana. He quickly became well known for his interest in exploration and his ability to write accurate and vivid reports. He was chosen because of this ability to lead the military escort for the 1870 expedition to explore the upper Yellowstone. His report was influential in the establishment of the area as the first of the national parks. Of the report it has been said that: "for graphic description and thrilling interest it has not been surpassed by any official report made to our government since the time of Lewis and Clark." Captain Doane led another dangerous expedition into the Yellowstone area in 1876 in winter, and his report of this exploration is equally exciting.

Captain Doane was largely responsible for the quick and safe conduct of the wounded in the Custer Massacre to the steamer Far West, and he took an important part in the defense against the Nez Perce invasion. Before he left Montana to serve in the Southwest he did important exploratory work in northern Montana while stationed at Fort Maginnis and Fort Assiniboine.

He was married in 1878 to Mary Lee Hunter of Bozeman.

2 Doane was married to Miss Amelia Fink of Yazoo City. She accompanied him to the West, and was the only woman in the expedition when the 2nd Cavalry marched to Fort Ellis in 1869. Two of Doane's troopers, Brigadier General David L. Brainard and Mr. William White agree that Amelia Doane was a charming woman, but ill suited by training and temperament to frontier conditions and her impetuous husband. An unsettled condition prevailed in the Doane household which resulted in a divorce early in 1878, when Amelia Doane returned to the South. In December of the same year at Bozeman, Montana, Doane married Mary Lee Hunter, the daughter of a prominent pioneer physician, Dr. A.J. Hunter. The Hunters were also southern in training and sympathy. This marriage, however, was a happy one. Possessed of striking beauty and graciousness, and a vitality which closely matched that of her husband, Mary Doane accompanied him from fort to fort where they contributed much to the social life of the frontier army posts. Many years younger than her husband, Mrs. Doane lives in Bozeman, and has cooperated closely in the preparation of these papers, which she has carefully preserved for almost a half century.

The Exploration of Yellowstone Park

The army on the frontier set forth a persistent plea that their deep purpose was in the interests of peace and development, and that when actual conflict came their real aim had broken down. Their constructive work of survey, road making, escort duty and defensive work has too often been lost in the more colorful offensive encounters.¹⁴ The exploration and report on the region which later became Yellowstone National Park is a single example of the developmental work of the frontier army.

The interest which Doane had manifested in the exploration of the Colorado River earlier, came to the surface again in the midst of rumors over the natural features to be found in the Yellowstone region. He let it be known that he was much interested in accompanying or leading an expedition into the mysterious area. When a group of civilians was formed for that purpose, Doane was early approached to participate in it. The reports which he had already made on escorts and natural features found along the way had attracted enough attention to give him the detail with instructions to accompany the civilian party for purposes of protection and convenience, and also to make a formal report to the government. This report stands as one of the best which has ever been written of the present National Park, and one of Doane's best bits of writing. Because of the thoroughness, and enthusiasm, tempered with sober control, the report gave to Congress and the country a well balanced view of the area, as a basis for the movement to set it aside as the first national park.¹⁵

Doane was frequently in the Yellowstone region following 1870, and his interest in the region constantly increased. His college training in geology and his wide interests in natural history, together with his love of the dramatic made him anxious to have a part in this exceptional region. Because of his position he was not able to participate in the movement to secure the region as a

14. Burlingame, Merrill G., "The Influence of the Military in the Building of Montana", Pacific Northwest Quarterly, vol. XXIX, No. 2, April 1938, 135-150

15. This report was published as House Ex. Doc., No 51, 41 Cong, 3 sess.
See Chapter I for the report.

national park, except through the influence of his report.¹⁶ He was with the Hayden geological expedition of 1871 and again in 1872, and also with Captains Heap and Barlow in 1872, giving aid to these parties in various ways.¹⁷

In the summer of 1875, the Secretary of War, W. W. Balknap, made a personal inspection of the Park, and requested that Lieutenant Doane be detailed to lead his escort. In his annual report, Balknap recounted the details of the trip and indicated that the region was "first discovered by Lieutenant Doane and the party which accompanied him."¹⁸ General W. E. Strong wrote a charming popular account of the trip, and mentioned Doane frequently: "This is his fourth trip to the Park, and he is perfectly familiar with it...In this country he is spoken of and pointed out as the man who 'Invented Wonderland'...and who wrote the first report of its mountains and valleys, its meyzers and canyons, its lakes and waterfalls. Hayden and Barlow and Jones have examined, all officially, and their reports are exhaustive, scientific, and most interesting; but Doane saw it first, wrote the first report, and brought it all to the notice and attention of the world. Give him the credit."¹⁹

16. Good general accounts of the creation of the Park are contained in: Chittenden, H. M., The Yellowstone National Park, first published in 1895; Cresson, Louis C., Early History of Yellowstone National Park and its relations to National Park Policies, 1932; Jackson, W. T., The Early Exploration and Founding of Yellowstone National Park, unpublished Ph. D. Thesis, University of Texas, 1940. A comprehensive study of this period was left in manuscript form by the late Dr. James M. Hamilton, of Montana State College.
17. Hayden, F. V., Preliminary Report of the United States Geological Survey of Montana and Portions of Adjacent Territories, being a fifth annual report of progress. 1872; Heap, D. P. and Barlow, J. W., "A Reconnaissance of the Yellowstone River in 1871," Senate Ex. Doc., No. 66, 42 Cong., 2 sess.; 1872.
18. Annual Report of the Secretary of War for 1876, pp. 27-28
19. Strong, General W. E., A Trip to the Yellowstone National Park in July, August and September, 1875, Washington, 1876, 37-46.