

Mary Hunter Doane



Gallatin
History
Museum

DORE GALLERY, Market Street, S. F.

A short biographical sketch of Mrs. Mary
Hunter Doane of Bozeman, Montana. President,
Montana Society of Pioneers, 1949-1980

When anyone in the Bozeman vicinity wants historical information he calls upon Mrs. Mary Doane, an alert genial and strikingly handsome lady, who will celebrate her ninety-first birthday on July 7.

Ninety-one will not be considered of great significance on July 7, for no one thinks of Mrs. Doane as being aged. Usually in robust health, she walks about the town at will to visit her wide circle of warm friends. She lives alone, does much of her own work, and is active in reading and in writing Montana history, usually without the aid of glasses. This year she is giving considerable time ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ giving assistance to the Montana Society of Pioneers of which she is president. Mrs. Doane lives quietly and shuns publicity, but is frequently called upon for public service. She has been president of the Gallatin County Pioneers Society for a number of years and always takes an active part in their meetings and program. She is also an active member of the Bozeman chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a faithful attendant of the Episcopal Church. She is in demand as a speaker to discuss the people she has known and the incidents in Montana's growth which she has witnessed.

Mary Lee Hunter was born July 7, 1859, in Chester, Randolph County, Illinois, ~~xxxx~~ the oldest child of Andrew Jackson and Susannah Murray Hunter. She observed her birthday in 1864 on the high plains in a wagon train enroute to Montana. The party arrived on the site of Bozeman in August, when the only suggestion of a future town consisted of a tent, and the even less tangible plans of Daniel E. Rouse and William J. Beall to build log houses for themselves and one for John Bozeman, who was guiding an emigrant train over the trail they had just traversed.

Since Mrs. Doane has spent most of her life in and near Bozeman, she knows of its growth as no one else does. "I sometimes get tired of being a walking encyclopedia of the history of Bozeman and Montana", Mrs. Doane remarks after an entire stranger has appeared unexpectedly and stayed all afternoon. "But, I suppose I am the only one left who remembers Bozeman from the beginning, and I am glad to tell of what I have seen."

Mrs. Doane ~~remembers~~ has a vivid recollection of the trip across the plains and of early Montana experiences because, although very young, it was a startling experience for her. Dr. Hunter was of a wealthy family, and Mary had been accustomed to every care in a southern home. The depredations of a marauding Unionist guerrilla band in the midst of the Civil War sacked and burned Dr. Hunter's home and office, and led to his joining a party to bring his family to the fabulously rich mining gulches of Montana. Thrown abruptly into the rough travel of the plains instead of having servants to care for her, Mary had to take much care of ~~herself~~ herself and in addition assist with two younger children in the family.

The Hunters went directly to Alder Gulch where they lived up the gulch between Virginia City and Summit. Dr. Hunter was intent upon making a quick fortune in the mines, but he was forced through constant demands to continue the practice of medicine. The Alder Gulch claim did not prove profitable and the Hunters joined many others in moving to the more recently discovered Last Chance Gulch, now Helena. There they lived in a one room log cabin on the site of the present First National Bank. The Hunters moved again in 1866 to the thriving Confederate Gulch, and in 1867 and 1868 were in an adjoining gulch where the settlement was called New York.

Dr. Hunter was one of the large number who did not find a mining claim which yielded a fortune. As population in the Confederate Gulch area began to

decline, Dr. Hunter remembered the hot springs which he had noted with great interest in the upper Yellowstone valley. He was well aware of the curative qualities of hot springs, and the operation of the Homestead Law would enable him to obtain the area easily and quickly. He brought his family to Bozeman in 1868 where they resided until he had living facilities for them at what came to be known as Hunter's Hot Springs, located near the Yellowstone River, some twenty miles east of the present Livingston. Dr. Hunter operated the springs until 1888, when the family again moved to Bozeman, where the Doctor died April 19, 1894 at the age of seventy-nine. As a health and resort center Hunter's Hot Springs was a noted landmark until the hotel burned in ²

The Hunter family had many experiences at the Hot Springs. For several months they were the only white family in the Yellowstone region east of the big bend. The erection of the Crow Agency on Mission Creek some ten miles to the west brought them near neighbors. The Springs was in the midst of the hunting grounds of the Crow Indians as they went from the Yellowstone valley to the Crazy Mountains immediately to the north. The Crows were consistently friendly, but when the Piegans, a tribe of the Blackfeet nation, invaded the Crow country, both the Indians and the Hunters were in trouble. The army stationed at Fort Ellis near Bozeman often sent a hurried detachment to bring in the Hunters until a Piegan foray had spent its force.

Mrs. Doane tells of a number of experiences with the Indians at the Hot Springs. On one occasion the Piegans swooped down and stole several of their horses. They rode them hard and left them almost completely ruined near a Crow camp where they stole fresh horses. The Crows recognized them as belonging to the Hunters and made compensation with fresh horses, apologizing ~~that they had not~~ because they had not been more alert and driven off the Piegans before they invaded the Yellowstone. "White men seldom show more thoughtfulness." observes Mrs. Doane.

On another occasion the Crow chief, Iron Bull, and his band appeared at

the Hot Springs and demanded that all of the Hunters accompany them on a buffalo hunt lasting several days. Dr. Hunter was perplexed but the Chief was determined and not wishing to offend the friendly Indians the family prepared quickly for a several day trip and left with the Indians. After traveling eastward for about three days, Iron Bull came to the Hunter's tent one morning and said, "Today you may return to your home. I will send some of my men with you." Dr. Hunter was equally surprised at this turn of affairs, for no buffalo had yet been seen. He was greatly pleased, however, when Iron Bull explained that a large band of Piegans had invaded the valley again, and the Hunters would have risked being killed if they had remained at home. Knowing Dr. Hunter's independence, he had not told him of the danger, but merely insisted on his leaving.

Trouble with the Crows came most often over the Hunter garden. The Indians were fond of potatoes which grew well, and were never willing to let them alone until they were ripe. They would always make adequate compensation, but almost always insisted upon digging the potatoes in late summer. On another occasion the Hunters missed some green watermelons, ~~they~~ which they had discovered would be raised in the warm area among the hot springs. Some time later the Indians inquired how the watermelons ~~would~~ should be cooked. They explained that the more they cooked the melons the tougher they became.

One Sunday the Rev. T. C. Iliff, one of the leading Methodist missionary ministers, was holding a service at Crow Agency. A large tent had been erected, Blackfoot had made an imposing speech, and after the service the society of young Indian men, known as the Fool Dogs, added to the color of the festivities by parading in all their costumed splendor. Mary Hunter and a friend from Bozeman, Lina Alderson, later Mrs. E. L. Houston, decided to go for a walk outside of the stockade. They had not gone far until a number of ~~the~~ Fool Dogs appeared on their horses riding directly for them. The girls shrieked

and ran for the enclosure. Their feelings were somewhat mixed when they learned that the young men were not interested in white girls but in the very bright shawl which Lina was wearing which would make a fine addition to the regalia of the Fool Dog who might acquire it.

Mrs. Hunter taught the children in the home in the early years when schools were not available. When Mary, who was the oldest child, grew to young womanhood she went to St. Vincent's Academy, a Catholic girls school, which had opened in Helena. She attended here three years, 1876-1878. Mrs. Doane has many pleasant recollections of the kindly sisters in the school, the friends she made from over the entire Territory, with several of whom she still corresponds, and of the practical and cultural education which she received.

In December, 1878, Mary Hunter was married to Lieutenant Gustavus C. Doane, who had come to Fort Ellis with the Second Cavalry in July, 1869. Lieutenant Doane had made an important place for himself in military circles in Montana. In 1870 he had charge of the military escort for the first official expedition into the upper Yellowstone, and because of his brilliant report of the trip, it has come to be known as the Washburn-Langford-Doane Expedition into Yellowstone National Park. The Lieutenant made another daring journey into the Yellowstone area in the winter of 1876. He had an important part in the aftermath of the Custer disaster, and was greatly in demand during the Nez Perce invasion in 1877.

The Doanes were married in Helena for several reasons. The family ~~was~~ was living at the remote Hot Springs. The wedding date was set rather quickly when the Lieutenant was ordered to report to Washington to render certain service during the winter. The most convenient stage road back "to the states" left Helena to go to the Utah region via Virginia City. "It was a four day trip to the railroad", recalls Mrs. Doane, "and a day was from five o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock at night. And the last lap of the journey we rode all day and all night. It was quite a honeymoon."

Mrs. Mary Doane ---

Captain Doane's health suffered in the campaign in the Southwest, and he was granted leave to come to Montana for rest. He had retained a passionate desire to assist in a major way in the development of Yellowstone National Park, and he hoped to be transferred to the military unit stationed there after his leave had been completed. His health continued to fail rapidly, however, and he died in Bozeman, May 5, 1892.

Mrs. Doane continued to live in Bozeman, residing with her mother until Mrs. Hunter's death, in _____ at the age of _____. She carefully preserved the extensive papers which Captain Doane assembled during his exceptionally active career of exploration and constructive work on the frontier, and has assisted in editing them in final form for publication which is expected soon. She has also collected material relating to the incidents in which she was a participant, which together with articles which she has written for presentation before many organizations, and her keen accurate memory enables her to recall and verify almost all of the major developments in Montana's history.

Mrs. Doane recalls incidents concerning many notable persons she has known. Governor and Mrs. Benjamin F. Potts ~~were~~ attended her wedding, and through her association with the military forts, and the Pioneers' Society she has come to know most of the later governors. She knew General W. T. Sherman and General Nelson Miles and a host of other military leaders, since many of the younger men whom she knew well on the Montana frontier received high position at a later time, particularly in the Spanish American War. She knew many of the pioneer missionary clergy. Father Palladino often came to St. Vincent's Academy and she came to know him well and admire him greatly. Bishop Tuttle, Bishop Brewer, Brother Van, and ~~others less well known~~ many others less well known she considered as friends. She has also counted a number of Indian chiefs as friends, perhaps the most notable in recent years was Chief Plenty Coups of the Crows.

Shunning publicity, but accepting the responsibility of knowing through having participated in so much of Montana's development, Mrs. Doane is willing

*Born - ?
9/1/90*

to give of her large store of information, to search through her materials and to interpret the fine pieces of Crow Indian work which she displays in her living room. She retains much of the vitality which assisted her in enduring the rigors of the trip across the plains as a child, the life in the mining gulches, and in the frontier military posts where as one of the most beautiful and gracious women in the fort she contributed a great deal to its social life. She has assisted the D. A. R. in selecting many of the historic sites and in the erection of their distinctive markers. She has an ardent desire to see more and better Montana history written, and is tireless in her search for the exact date and ~~the~~ accurate details.

Gallatin County's Oldest Pioneer, Mrs. Mary H. Doane, Related Story of Coming to Bozeman Three Years Ago

Mrs. Mary Hunter Doane, late daughter of the late Dr. J. A. Hunter, related this story three years ago when she was attending a meeting of the Park County Pioneers society in Livingston.

Dr. Hunter developed Hunter's Hot Springs, and the Crow Indian agency in the early 1870's, before there was any settlement in the Livingston area. Hunter's Hot Springs were located about 17 miles down the Yellowstone from Livingston, on the North bank.

The old agency site was about 8 miles east at Mission creek, south of the river on highway 10.

Dr. Hunter, a Virginian, had been a physician for the Illinois Central railroad, and had served with the medical corps of the Confederate army during the Civil war. His wartime service and the ravages of the conflict, plus a serious loss by fire, had determined him to seek fortune anew in the Far West, from which came tales of fortune at the grass roots; a land where one might prosper as he helped to build a civilization in a new and primitive land.

With his wife and three children he set out in wagons drawn by mules. At Omaha he joined others in a wagon train, but was told he would never get through with his mules, so he sold the mules and bought yokes of cattle for his wagons.

There were, Mrs. Doane recalled, 32 men in the train, all young men except Dr. Hunter, then in his forties. Mrs. Hunter and the three children were the only family in the party. Mrs. Doane recalled her childish memories and what had been told her of the adventures and vicissitudes of the trail. Turning north from Fort Laramie, Wyo., with the first wagon train brought over what was to become the Bozeman Trail, later to have many Indian troubles, the train of wagons went through to Virginia City without too serious trouble, though wagon trains on the trail always had plenty of hardships.

When the wagon train crossed to the north side of the Yellowstone at the mouth of Duck creek, east of Hunter's Hot Springs, Mrs. Hunter, then a child of about five years, started an association with southern Montana that, with only brief interruption, lasted for almost 88 years, until her death in Bozeman June 23.

The wagon train had camped after crossing the river, to put equipment in shape and to rest. Dr. Hunter explored the area, and discovered the hot springs, and staked a claim about them.

He was familiar with the hot springs in Arkansas, which had been developed into a famous resort, even as far back as the late

when W. W. Alderson named the community Bozeman, in honor of John M. Bozeman, who had marked the trail to Fort Laramie.

The Hunters went to Virginia City, where Dr. Hunter practiced medicine there and in other places in the mining country until 1869, when he and his family returned to the hot springs on the Yellowstone.

No surveys had been made in this part of the country, and he held the springs by squatter's right until some years later he could file on the land as a homestead.

He built a home near the springs, and built a dam to impound the hot medicated waters. He made no distinction among the people who visited the place, and both Indians and whites enjoyed the beneficent waters. This was the beginning of the resort that was famous throughout Montana until the Hunters Hot Springs hotel burned in 1932. Only a couple of houses and the ruins of the hotel and the swimming pool remained until, some five years ago the C. C. Johnson family reactivated the plunge under a quonset-type building to be operated along with operation of the ranch.

In 1873 Dr. Hunter built more pretentious bath houses, buying lumber in Bozeman at \$80 per 1,000 square feet, and paying \$60 per 1,000 feet for its transportation to the springs.

The Crow Indians were friendly to Dr. Hunter and his family, and he in turn welcomed the Indians to his place. It was during this period that Chief Old Crow became enamoured of young Mary Hunter and offered his wealth of horses and robes for her hand.

The only objection the Crows ever made to Dr. Hunter's activities was cultivation of the soil—he plowed up land for gardens and feed crops. The Crows insisted cultivation of the land would bring rains that would spoil their hunting season.

For some years the Hunter family spent only the winters at the springs. After the spring crops had been planted they went to Bozeman or elsewhere for the summer, since this was the season the Crows went hunting, and the murderers, thieving Sioux and Blackfeet followed them. A few times, the Hunter home was attacked before they left in the spring or early summer.

Lt. James H. Bradley and a detachment of soldiers camped near the springs in 1876, en route east in the maneuvers which ended in the Custer massacre on the Little Big Horn. Lt. Bradley, in addition to being a splendid soldier and frontiersman, was a rather meticulous historian, and left many manuscripts dealing with

vicinity, and once attacked the house—facts which do not attract customers."

Wild animals, apparently by instinct, recognized the therapeutic value of the hot springs and visited them frequently. For years after Dr. Hunter and his family established their home at the springs the animals came in droves to drink the warm water. Mrs. Hunter once declared she had seen a herd of not less than 5,000 elk pass up the cold water of the Yellowstone river and come on to the springs to drink the hot water.

A postoffice at Hunter's Hot Springs was established in 1878, with Dr. Hunter as the postmaster, to serve the scattered settlers of the region. It was the second postoffice established in what is now Park county. The first was at the Bottler ranch above Emigrant in 1871 to accommodate the Hayden party making official exploration of the area that is now Yellowstone park. It was later moved, with the same name, to the Trail creek community on what is now the Nesbit ranch. It faded out soon after Livingston was established.

Dr. Hunter's early years at the springs were devoted to developments which would enable him to hold the property. When the Northern Pacific trains began running in 1883, Dr. Hunter laid the foundations for a hotel, and completed it the following year, with bath houses and other buildings. The railroad brought the springs within reach of people over a large area, and Hunter's Hot Springs became famous throughout the northwest, and continued popular until fire destroyed the hotel in 1932. Since World War II, the C. C. Johnson family who own and operate the ranch at the springs, reactivated the plunge under a quonset-type building.

Dr. Hunter sold the springs to the Montana Hot Springs company in 1885, and it continued under various owners until the hotel burned while it was the property of the Murray interests of Butte.

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He was familiar with the hot springs in Arkansas, which had been developed into a famous resort, even as far back as the late 1860s, when Arkansas itself was a frontier country, and he could envision a similar future for these fine hot springs.

Dr. Hunter and family accompanied the train west, crossing the Shields river about five miles north of the mouth, coming back to the Yellowstone. One of the Hunter sons died near the site of Livingston and the Hunters remained to bury him, then went on to Bozeman alone. They were in the settlement Aug. 9, 1864,

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He recorded: "Two miles from my camp are Dr. Hunter's warm springs. I visited them and found the water very hot, with sulphur the predominating mineral. The Hunters were at the springs, but were in dread of the Sioux. The house in summer is something of a resort for the afflicted, and the Sioux frequently appear in the

hotel burned while it was the property of the Murray interests of Butte."



"I hope all the voters in Gallatin County vote as I do on Tuesday. I'm going to vote for Purdy as our representative in the state legislature. I know he's our man and will give us the best government we've had in many years. He's young and knows how to get things done, like we want them done."

I'm voting Tuesday for —



R. P. (Bud) Purdy,

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Pd. Pol. Adv. Purdy for Representative Club.—Mrs. John K. Powers, secy., Bozeman.

At DAR Washington Tea

The Mount Hyalite Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution met last week at the home of Mrs. Charles Walter, 1513 South Grand with co-hostesses being Mrs. Kuhl, Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Fjeld and Mrs. Henderson.

A special guest of Mrs. M. F. Brister, the regent, was Miss Minnie Paugh, Special Collections Librarian of the Montana State University Library.

The George Washington Tea is a yearly event of the February meeting of the chapter, commemorating the founder of the United States as well as the month of February as American History Month.

The National Defense report was given by Mrs. W. G. Hecox and Mrs. G. F. Raalum gave the President General's Message. Delegates to the State Daughter's of the American Revolution Conference, scheduled during March in Butte, were elected as follows: Mrs. A. L. Koch, Mrs. M. F. Brister, Mrs. G. F. Raalum, Mrs. H. H. Cain, Mrs. R. A. Coffey, Mrs. Frank J. Pickett, Mrs. Truman Ekstedt, Mrs. E. J. Weinrich, Mrs. Carroll Henderson and Mrs. W. G. Hecox.

Program Presented

The program was given by Mrs. W. B. Holmes and Mrs. Frank J. Pickett on the "Doane Family in American History."

Mrs. Holmes reviewed the biography of Capt. Gustavus Cheyney Doane written in "Battle Drums and Geysers" by Orrin and Lorraine Bonney.

Portions of the presentation is as follows:

"Capt. Doane was born in Galesburg, Knox County, Ill., May 29, 1840. In April,

1846, he went west to Oregon from St. Louis with his parents. After three years in Oregon they went to the California gold fields.

"After Doane graduated from the University of the Pacific at Santa Clara, Calif., he went by ship from San Francisco to New York to enlist in the Union Army from California (Oct. 30, 1862). He fought several skirmishes around Washington, D.C. against the guerrilla fighter Mosby and later was in the Marine Brigade near Yazoo City, Miss. After the Civil War was ended, he tried his hand at the mercantile business and was later appointed mayor of Yazoo City.

"Doane became a Second Lieutenant Aug. 1, 1868, and as an Indian fighter of the Second U.S. Cavalry, Co. F, came to Fort Ellis, Mont. These were the first soldiers regularly assigned to duty in Montana. Besides Indian fighting, the main chores of the soldiers were the enlargement of their new post, exploration of the area and the building of new roads.

"On Dec. 16, 1878, Lt. Gustavus C. Doane married Mary Lee Hunter in Bozeman. She was 19, he was 39. They lived in Washington, D.C., the Presido, San Francisco and in Arizona during the Indian Wars which ended with the surrender of the dreaded Geronimo.

"Capt. Doane's health was failing so he came back to Bozeman. He died here on May 5, 1892, at the age of 52 of a heart attack."

joined a train consisting of 32 men for the trip across the plains.

"Their pioneer trail carried them through the Wind River Canyon, Big Horn, Yellowstone and then to Gallatin Valley, arriving four months later.

Friendly Indians

"When they arrived approximately just east of Livingston, they met some friendly Crow Indians, one of whom was badly wounded. The hunters stayed and the rest of the wagon train proceeded on until the doctor did all he could for the dying Indian — this was a matter of days.

"One day as Dr. Hunter was riding over the surrounding hills making sure warring Indians didn't attack, he discovered the present day Hunter's Hot Springs. Knowing the medical powers of the hot springs in Arkansas, he later built a home and both houses there. He took squatter's rights to the area in February, 1870. In 1873 he built a home. In 1878 the land was surveyed and Dr. Hunter took a homestead claim. The Northern Pacific disputed his right and a long legal controversy ended in 1882 in Dr. Hunter's favor. In 1885 Dr. Hunter sold the major portion of his rights to the Montana Hot Springs and in 1898 it was sold to James A. Murray of Butte. Murray built a large hotel and swimming pool and the resort attracted a large number of people each year until the hotel burned in

wanted to go to the gold fields at Virginia City. Only a few days later the boundaries of the town were laid out and the town was named Bozeman.

"The Hunter family arrived too late in Alder Gulch, Confederate Gulch, and Mrs. Doane often said her father never made a dollar in the mines.

"As the children grew, they were sent away to school. Mary Lee enrolled in St. Vincent's Academy in Helena during the years 1876-78. On Dec. 16, 1878, Mary Hunter was married to Lt. Gustavus C. Doane in Helena. Gov. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Potts attended, as did the families.

"After many military tours in the West as well as in Washington, D.C., they came back to Bozeman where Capt. Doane died and was buried in 1892. Mrs. Doane remained a widow for 60 years and, after a short illness, died here June 23, 1952, aged 92 years.

"Mrs. Doane was an active member of the Mt. Hyalite Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution and was most interested in placing historical markers across the state. She spoke often at the Pioneers and DAR meetings and had a real first-hand scene of history. She often expressed a desire to see historical facts recorded and saved. She knew Gen. W. T. Sherman, Gen. Nelson Miles, Gen. Hugh Scott and a host of other military leaders. She knew most of the pioneer missionary clergy, Bishop Tyttle, Bishop Brewer, Brother Van and many others, including Chief Plenty Coups of the Crows.

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Gallatin Pioneer Matron Relates Early-Day History

Mrs. Doane Loans Treasures For Lewis and Clark Day

The name Mary L. Doane appeared as donor for so many window exhibits that it is little wonder that many of the spectators asked who she might be. The Chronicle takes the opportunity to introduce her today to those residents and visitors who don't already know her.

Mrs. Mary L. Doane lives at 40 East Babcock. She is the widow of Captain Gustavus Doane of company G 2nd Cavalry of the United States army who died in Bozeman in 1892 and the daughter of one of Montana's earliest physicians Dr. A. J. Hunter.

A brown eyed, lovely little lady who belies a good many of her 85 years she is as interested in present day Bozeman knowing the stories of Montana as she was active in helping to make them.

Crossing the plains with her father and mother they camped at the mouth of Kelly creek in 1864 and Dr. Hunter homesteaded the section near the hot springs that are now known as Hunters Hot Springs. In 1878 she married the dashing Lt. Gustavus Doane then stationed at Fort Ellis. On the return from her eastern honeymoon she made the trip by boat from Bismarck, N. D., to Fort Benton and she was with her husband when he helped to establish the old Fort Assiniboine post.

Explorer, writer, soldier and gentleman as his widow, all the history texts and his commanding officer attests Captain Doane's life was a record of achievement.

An army report made June 28, 1876 three days after the Custer massacre when Reno was trying to move his wounded down to the mouth of the Little Big Horn where the steamer Far West was waiting to take them back for hospitalization, Captain Doane was especially commended by General Terry and all the men for his inventiveness in creating out of animal hide a carryall for the wounded slung between mule teams for making the long distances easier to bear.

His part in the Washburn - Doane expedition of 1870 was second to none according to Chittenden army engineer and quoting him. "He made the first official report upon the wonders of the Yellowstone and his fine descriptions have never been surpassed by any subsequent writer. Dr. Hayden of the United States Geological Survey at that time wrote of Doane's report," I venture to state as my opinion that for graphic description and thrilling interest it has not been surpassed by any official report made to our government since the times of Lewis and Clark."

1932.

Mary Lee Hunter

Mrs. Frank J. Pickett, dressed in a calico pioneer dress and a sunbonnet which Mrs. Doane had made for a parade in Three Forks, gave the biography of Mrs. Mary Lee Hunter Doane:

"Mary Lee Hunter was born July 17, 1859, in Chester, Randolph County, Ill. Her father had served as a doctor in the Confederate Army but as the war in the West ceased to be severe, he left the service and became a railway physician for the Illinois Central Railway. Dr. Hunter's family had been large slave holders and possessed considerable wealth which had not been dissipated by the war. The family moved westward to Callaway County, Mo. Here he acquired a considerable farm, a general store and drug store and a spacious home. In the closing days of the war the country was swept by irresponsible guerilla troops and because of Dr. Hunter's Southern sympathies and his participation in the Confederate Army, his home and store were burned to the ground.

"Dr. Hunter immediately converted his remaining property into cash, fitted up a wagon and, on April 2, 1864, set out for the Far West which had appealed to his restless nature for a considerable time. In Omaha the family

"Mrs. Doane recalled many adventures which took place at the "Springs." The friendly Indians were the Crows. At first they objected to the family garden because they felt the disturbance of the earth in its cultivation would bring the rain which would destroy their hunting. When their fears had been overcome, the Crows were fascinated with the growing crops. They were particularly fond of potatoes and when they attempted to cook a green watermelon as they would the potatoes, it was a complete disaster.

"The Crows warned of warring bands of Piegans and Bloods and were often seen on the distant hills and signal fires were visible at night.

"Many times the children were securely housed and locked in the cabin while Mrs. Hunter stood guard on an elevation nearby that she might see anyone approaching and warn those in the field to come at once.

"Mary Lee Hunter Doane was the oldest of the Hunter's seven children and the last to survive.

Rested in Bozeman

"When the Hunter family passed through Bozeman on Aug. 1, 1864, on their way to Virginia City, they rested their horses and were almost persuaded to remain. But Dr. Hunter

"After her husband's death she sent a copy of his army service to the Society of California Pioneers, saying in her letter 'It is a great comfort to me to know that my husband was loved and respected by all who knew him and that I have friends at this time ... The light of a happy home has gone out.' "

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.

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 _____

Mrs. Mary L. Doane, Pioneer



One of eight Gallatin County Pioneers, those people who have lived here since 1868, Mrs. Mary L. Doane is also one of the best loved members of the august group. Mrs. Doane was re-elected president of the Pioneer group Tuesday during their annual banquet.

