

Rosa Beall





William J. Beall
born 1834 in Pennsylvania
died 1903



Rose Barker Beall
born 1838 in New York
died 1930

William Beall had come to the Virginia City mining camp with his brother in 1863. They were early Vigilantes, serving as shotgun guards at hangings. William met Rouse during this time. They established a ranch near Three Forks. John Bozeman talked to Beall and Rouse about laying out a townsite in the Upper Gallatin Valley near the pass. Rouse and Beall purchased land for themselves and Bozeman on the site of present day Bozeman. Beall finished his log cabin about the same time as Rouse. It was located on Main Street just north of Bozeman Avenue. He is considered one of the three founders of Bozeman. Beall lived out his life as a farmer and a builder. In 1873, he was issued a patent for his invention, a mechanical potato picker. His family gave away many bells to the citizens of Bozeman.

When Rose came to the Gallatin Valley in 1864 she was married to A.H. Van Ulierden and had two small daughters. She was the first woman in the area. For three months they lived in the covered wagon box set on the ground. One night while alone with her children, wolves surrounded the wagon box and tried to enter. Many of the early settlers would live in their wagon boxes while a house was built. It was not uncommon to live this way for up to a year.

Her marriage eventually ended, and her husband returned to the east with the two girls, Rose married William Beall in 1868. She was well known in the community, not only for being the first white woman to arrive, but also for her church activities and other helpful activities to benefit the community. One of these was the donation of the stone building that is currently the Beall Park Art Center. She dedicated this building to the youth of Bozeman. She lived until 1930 and was the oldest pioneer in the area.

AGED PIONEER PASSES AWAY

Mrs. W. J. Beall Had Lived in
Bozeman Since Her Arrival on
August First 1864.

1930

Mrs. W. J. Beall, aged nearly ninety-two, an early Bozeman pioneer, the first white woman to settle permanently in Bozeman, where she has made her home since her arrival August 1, 1864, passed away peacefully Wednesday afternoon, April 16, at the Deaconess hospital, where she had been nearly seven weeks for special care.

Funerl services will be held Friday morning at 10 o'clock, at St. James' Episcopal church, of which church she was the last charter member, and interment will be in the Masonic plot in the Sunset Hills cemetery, beside the grave of her husband, William J. Beall, who was one of the founders of the city of Bozeman. Assisting in the services will be members of Lily of the Valley chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, of which Mrs. Beall was also a charter member and of which chapter she was recently made a life member.

Mrs. Beall had no relatives in Montana, but she had many faithful friends, not only in Bozeman, but in other parts of Montana and in other states who have shown their interest in many ways, and letters from the far east and west cheered her during her illness. She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. G. W. (Mary) Culberison of Wilmette, Illinois, and Mrs. J. P. (Sara) Smith of San Francisco, California. A niece Mrs. G. F. Furbush of Alameda, California, formerly of Bozeman, with her husband and son visited Mrs. Beall about two years ago.

Daughter of Early Pioneer

Beside being a pioneer herself, Mrs. Beall was the daughter of an early Montana pioneer, her parents being the late Mr. and Mrs. James Barker. Her father came to Montana in 1863 and was among the first to build houses in Helena. He was engaged in business in Meagher county for about twenty years and then went to California, where he died. Mrs. Beall was Rosa V. Barker. She was born in Lewis county, New York, June 29, 1838, and was graduated with honors in music and art from Fairfield Seminary, at that time an educational institution of high standing in New York state. While the school no longer exists, Mrs. Beall has received invitations to the reunion of graduates ever year. She gave piano lessons at the seminary a year after graduating.

Crossed the Plains in 1864

With her first husband, A. H. Van Vlieden and two little daughters, all now deceased, she crossed the plains in 1864, with what was known as the Townsend train, drawn by oxen and cows, 300 men with 15 families and 150 wagons being in the train. They had a narrow escape from being killed by Indians, and in crossing the Big Horn river, Mrs. Van Vlieden and the little girls narrowly escaped drowning. Some of the party stopped across the range and went to Emigrant Gulch, and of those arriving in Bozeman August 1, 1864, Mrs. Beall was the last to survive.

Marriage to William J. Beall

She was married in November 1868, to William J. Beall, one of the founders of the city of Bozeman, an architect who planned and built the first cathedral and other important buildings in Helena, as well as a number of residences and

equipped for playground in the summer and for a skating rink in winter under proper supervision, the building adding greatly to the comfort of the skaters, while others enjoy the reading room and games.

Mrs. Beall took an active part in the religious, educational and social life of the city until recent years, being a charter member of St. James' Episcopal church, a teacher in the Sunday school, treasurer of the Guild and a worker in every department of the church. The Right Rev. Daniel S. Tuttle, pioneer bishop of Montana, was entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Beall on several of his visits here. She was a charter member of the Auxiliary of the Order of Eastern Star, now called the Masonic Woman's Auxiliary, as well as of Lily of the Valley chapter of the O. E. S.

Active in Pioneers' Society

She assisted in organizing the Pioneers' Society of Gallatin county, and continued faithfully in membership, serving four terms as president of the organization and several years as historian, contributing many interesting talks about early days at the annual meetings, and also giving talks to the school children that were much appreciated. Although in failing health, she was recently re-elected historian of the county society. She has been a continuous member of the Society of Montana Pioneers, serving many years as Gallatin county vice president in that society. Records of deaths in this county have been promptly reported by her each year. She attended many state meetings of pioneers, and was prominent in the affairs of the meeting in Butte in 1928, her failing health preventing her from going to Great Falls for the meeting in 1929.

ere
ife, that of robbing the Scerley home.

en
can
ied
ool
the
m-
cks
ily
hat
it
for
ich
his
the

ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR MRS. W. J. BEALL A BOZEMAN PIONEER

Mrs. W. J. Beall, who holds the record for longest residence in Bozeman, and Gallatin valley, having been here since August 1, 1864, passed another milestone at her home in the Evergreen apartments Monday, and was remembered by many of her friends with greetings and appropriate gifts, and with congratulations on her excellent health, both mentally and physically.

A little more than a year ago she had a fall and broke a leg, necessitating a sojourn of several weeks in the hospital, and it has been a surprise and joy to her many friends that she has so fully recovered that she is able to get around the house without any assistance and around on the street with only a little help, so that she has not only enjoyed the visits of her friends at her apartment, but she has been able to get out to church service at St. James' Episcopal church, of which she is a charter member, and to get around in some degree to visit her friends and enjoy some of the social events, especially in connection with the local chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, of which she is also a charter member.

She keeps up an interesting correspondence with friends in other cities and states, and the letters show that she is held in high esteem by these friends as well as by all who know her in the community.

COL. COOLIDGE IMPROVING

Plymouth, Vt., June 30.—The con-

in
N
le
be
al
be
un
M
to
ta
gn
Be
n
co
vi
ot
tu
in
M
te
Sa
tu
Ne
va
M
an
sp
ing
an
is
tu
of
ha
sta
an
tan
be
rel
a
M
M
wh

UNSUNG HEROES: WILLIAM & ROSA BEALL



by **B. DEREK STRAHN**

In communities across America, concerned citizens celebrate and remember their town founders with stately monuments, public art and the preservation of historic landmarks. These needed places serve as mnemonic devices, triggering our memories and helping us to recall the important stories associated with those who played a central role in the pageant of our past.

But in Bozeman, Montana—a town that by most accounts has done a reasonably good job of preserving its history—surprisingly few remnants of our early pioneers have found places within our collective consciousness. Yes, a few street names and sculptures honor these early settlers, and a badly deteriorating public mural attempts to mythologize our beginnings. But our understanding of Bozeman's first residents is still foggy at best, in part because so few physical reminders of their

accomplishments remain with us.

Sketchy rumors abound, but remarkably not one confirmed original log cabin stands to help us appreciate the rough-hewn days of Bozeman's infancy. Consequently, we run the risk of forgetting what life was really like in those defining moments of the mid-1860s.

Of Bozeman's founding pioneers, perhaps the most significant in our early history—and the least appreciated—are William and Rosa Beall. Arguably the Bealls did more to mold our community in its formative years than any other pioneer couple, epitomizing the difficult, adventuresome and fascinating lives that shaped the nineteenth century American West.

An architect, contractor and farmer, William Johnston Beall was born in Philadelphia, on May 19, 1834. As a young man he studied architecture, moving west at the age of 22. He lived in Kansas and Colorado before journeying to the booming mining camp of Virginia City, Mont., in March of 1863. Like many of his contemporaries, Beall quickly shunned the gold fields, turning to farming at Gallatin City, near the headwaters of the Missouri.

One summer's day in 1864, while returning home from Virginia City with partner Daniel Rouse, Beall encountered a Georgian named John M. Bozeman. The charismatic Bozeman persuaded the men to lay out a townsite "standing right in the gate of the mountains, ready to swallow up all the tenderfeet ... with their golden fleeces to be taken care of." Convinced of the possibilities, Beall and Rouse located homestead claims for themselves and John Bozeman in July of 1864. They then proceeded to plat out the village that would eventually bear Bozeman's name, while the trailblazer piloted a wagon train toward the

Gallatin Valley. Identifying Main Street (then Bozeman's road), as well as Rouse and Bozeman Avenues, the two men awaited their partner's return.

In the months that followed, Beall had a major impact on Bozeman's early built environment. He filed two separate 160-acre homestead patents locally, dividing some of the land into three early additions, while holding a sizable farm for himself. Hauling logs from the mountains, Beall and Rouse erected the first houses in Bozeman, near the corner of Main Street and Bozeman Avenue. Beall also donated lands to would-be settlers and regularly offered his services to newcomers who needed assistance with construction, like John Bozeman and William Alderson. In the fall of 1866, he established a planing mill and furniture shop near the present site of Lindley Park.

Beall's most significant architectural contributions were civic in nature. During the summer and fall of 1867, he invested significant funds and erected Bozeman's first two-story frame city hall building on the southeast corner of Main and Bozeman. The following year, the amateur architect designed and built the town's first school at the corner of South Tracy and West Olive streets. He likewise completed the first Methodist Episcopal Church in Bozeman, as well as the original cathedral and other important civic buildings in Helena.

Equally important in early Bozeman history was William Beall's wife, Rosa. Born Rosa Viola Barker in Lewis County, N.Y., on June 29, 1838, she graduated with honors in music and art from Fairfield Seminary, an educational institution of high standing in New York. Following in the footsteps of her parents, Rosa traversed the plains with her first husband, A.H. Van Vliet and

PRESERVATION



Rosa and William Beall were married in 1868 in Bozeman and homesteaded four blocks north of Main Street. The couple were instrumental in the town's early religious, educational and social life.

two little daughters — Lola, 5, and Minnie, 3, — in 1864. They traveled with the Townsend Train — an overland immigrant train composed of 150 wagons and one of the few to ascend the newly developed Bozeman Trail in 1864. During the arduous trip she narrowly escaped being killed by hostile Cheyenne Indians. While crossing the treacherous Big Horn River, she and her daughters nearly drowned.

When Rosa Van Vlierden finally arrived in Bozeman on Aug. 1, 1864, she became the first white woman to settle in the Gallatin Valley. At the time, men outnumbered women in Montana by a ratio of nearly 10 to one. Nonetheless, Rosa set out to make a life for herself and her family and, in the process, shaped the community in lasting and noteworthy ways.

It was a challenging life. During her first months in town, Rosa lived with her family in the covered wagon box on the ground. One night, while alone with her children, wolves surrounded the makeshift home and tried to force entrance. Later, Rosa's ill-fated first marriage resulted in a tragic divorce. Her husband "stealthily abducted" her beloved daughters in 1867 and returned to Ohio.

In 1868, Rosa and William Beall wedded, prompting the construction of a new residence four blocks north of Main Street. Together the couple homesteaded and, to bring in extra income, Rosa sewed sacks of feed for cavalry horses stationed at the recently established Fort Ellis.

By 1877 — just one year after Custer's

defeat — William Beall designed and built another "graded school building" at the present site of the Emerson School. Known as the West Side School, the \$15,000 Italianate structure featured arched windows and a tower adorned with a concave mansard roof, borrowed from the Second Empire style.

Rosa Beall made important civic contributions as well, helping to define role the town's early religious, educational, and social life. She was charter member of St. James Episcopal Church, a founding member of the Auxiliary Order of the Eastern Star and an active member in the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Rosa also assisted in organizing the Pioneer Society of Gallatin County, serving four terms as president and several years as historian. She gave numerous talks and addresses about local history throughout her long and interesting life.

In 1920, the City of Bozeman purchased portions of the Beall farm for a city park. Local residents remodeled their 1868 house and used it as a recreation center until 1927, when local philanthropist Ella Clark Martin donated \$40,000 for what is now the Beall Park Art Center at 409 North Bozeman Ave.

Of those arriving in Bozeman during its first year, William and Rosa Beall were clearly two of the most significant. William Beall died in 1903. Sadly, none of his architectural contributions still stand. Rosa Beall — the last of Bozeman's founding pioneers to survive — died on April 16, 1930, at the age of 91.

B. Derek Strahn is a historic preservation consultant and teaches social studies at Bozeman High. He can be reached at DerekStrahn@msn.com.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MRS. W. J. BEALL

(Probably written by Mrs. E. Lina Houston)

The subject of this sketch was born at Collinsville, Lewis County, New York, in the year 1838. She has lived in Bozeman, Gallatin County, Montana, continuously since July 1864, and although others might have come here a short time before her, none of them have remained, and she believes herself entitled to the distinction of being the oldest old-timer of all ladies in this part of the state. Mrs. Beall's father was James Barker, late of Centerville in the Missouri Valley. Mrs. Beall had lived in Montana for some time before she knew that her father had preceded her by nearly a year, and was living in Helena. He came to Montana in 1863 and established himself in Helena, building perhaps the third business building that was erected in that city. He afterwards removed to Meagher County, and James Barker was for many years a well-known name in that part of the Territory.

When the subject of our sketch was twelve years old she removed with her parents to Cold Brook, Herkimer Co. She was educated at the old Fairfield Seminary, of Fairfield, Herkimer Co. N. Y. a school of high reputation throughout all northern and central New York in those days, for the excellent facilities which it had to offer in the pursuit of English, Classical, and Scientific studies, and its special courses in music, drawing and painting. Prof. Bartlett Barker, an uncle of Mrs. Beall, was at this time, and for many years after, teacher of sciences and mathematics, and was from 1861 to 1865 the principal of the school. At the age of

seventeen Mrs. Beall went to Edinbour, Erie Co. Penn. and gave instruction in music upon the piano for one year. At the end of that time as her parents were about to go west, she returned home, and removed with them to Wisconsin, settling in Whitewater, in September, 1856. Here she was married in the following November to A. H. VanVlierden. From this time on for several years she lived the life of a wanderer, stopping in many places in the north and west, but in none for more than a short period. At the outbreak of the Civil War she was at St. Joseph, Missouri. Her war experience consisted of one event, which was sufficiently like trouble that she experienced afterwards in the new country, to deserve mention here. In 1862 she was on her way to St. Louis in a river steamer with her two children, when the steamer was seized by Union Soldiers for Government Service, was laid up at Lexington, Missouri, and all on board were treated as prisoners of war. They were detained at that point until after the battle of Lexington, when the great Heap Ware-Houses and other buildings were burned. In a few days a large number of Confederate prisoners were put on board their boat, which put off from the dock, but soon ran on a sand bar, from which they were not released for several days. Here all, belligerents and non-belligerents alike, were put on short rations and obliged to drink the muddy water of the Missouri. Soon after this the family went to Watertown, Wisconsin, and there remained until the early part of the year 1864. In the Spring of that year, with her husband and children, Mrs. Beall removed to Grinnell, Iowa, which was a great outfitting point for the west, and the end of the railroad. There they purchased their outfit to make the jour-

ney across the plains, with their objective point the territory which was then known as Idaho. There were then two children, little girls, the elder, Lola, aged five years, and the younger, Minnie, three. The party left Council Bluffs on the first day of May 1864 and proceeded to Laramie, where they combined with other trains to make a caravan formidable enough to face the dangers of the wilderness through which they must travel. From that place their train was known as the Townsend Train. It was composed of about 150 wagons, and three hundred men, and contained fifteen families. They came by what was known as the Bozeman Road, more commonly spoken of then as the Bozeman Cut-off. They made very fair speed, reaching the limits of Montana, at the beginning of July. Meantime Congress had divided the large Territory of Idaho, and set apart the portion which is now the State of Montana, and named it Montana Territory. On the fourth of July the train camped on the Powder River. Here they were attacked by a hostile band of Cheyenne Indians. The camp was surrounded, and the brush which was all about them, was fired, in order to cut them off from the water. The camp had been pitched in a little basin, where they were somewhat protected by the nature of the ground. The fight lasted for two or three hours, and one man in the camp was killed. At the end of this time the Indians retreated, and when the whites were able to get out on the bluffs they found the bodies of the others who had been shot. In all there were nine white men killed. The attack was made while most of the camp were at breakfast, but some had eaten earlier, and had gone out prospecting. It was from these that most were killed by the Indians. One man, who had been out

hunting a cow that had strayed was picked off by an Indian bullet, and when the train moved on they found his scalp, which the Indian murderer had left hanging in a tree. In crossing the Big Horn river they came near drowning. Mrs. Beall and the children were in the wagon, and when the oxen were about drowning they were rescued by horsemen, who swam their horses into the stream and got them out. When the Yellowstone Valley was reached the train broke up, some going on up the river to the diggings in the neighborhood of Emigrant, and some going on over the ranges, to Alder Gulch, or Virginia City. Mrs. Beall's party came from the Yellowstone through the Bridger Pass into the Gallatin Valley. She well remembers the loveliness of the valley when her eyes first rested upon it. She thinks she had never seen so beautiful a sight. It was the latter part of July, and the grass was up to the tops of the backs of the oxen. One could stand anywhere on the level ground, and not be able to see an atelope that was feeding except when the animal raised his head. Mrs. Beall settled on what is now Story's ranch, and adjoining the present city of Bozeman. They took their household effects out of the wagon in which they had lived for three months, and lived in a tent during the remainder of the summer. One night soon after settling there she was besieged by a pack of wolves while her husband was away. She took refuge in the wagon box, and fortified herself with a rampart of trunks, while the wolves howled outside and seemed every moment about to leap over the obstructions and get at them. It was a mile to the nearest house, and impossible to obtain succor. Fortunately her husband returned at about eleven o'clock, or she thinks the wolves would certainly have succeeded in

getting over the barriers. When they reached Bozeman there were no houses here, but W. J. Beall and D. E. Rouse had each laid the foundation logs for the first houses, the two being built at about the same time. Mrs. Beall's house stood just in the rear of the present Masonic Building, and the house which Mr. Rouse built was removed to give place to the brick building now occupied by Wilson's Dry-goods store. There were a few ladies here that fall, and of those who remained, Mrs. Beall remembers Mrs. F. F. Fridley and Mrs. Davis. In the fall they built a cabin of sod in which they passed the winter without much luxury and in very little comfort. For doors and windows they had portieres, though not quite according to the latest fad in this line. Theirs were made of canvass and bits of carpet, and were not used altogether because it was the fashion, although no doubt such wind and storm excluders were more fashionable in Montana in the winters of 1864 & 65 than they have been since. They were rich and fortunate in having brought a small Cook Stove with them in their wagon. There was no coal oil, and no candles, and for a light in the evenings they were accustomed to make a fire of small sticks and weeds. While she lived there she had to stand many sieges from the Indians, sometimes ordering and pushing them out of her house, when they became too plentiful or too troublesome, often feeding them, and sometimes getting up for them the best dinners that she knew how, with the materials at hand, in order to keep them good-natured. At least once she drew a revolver on them to prevent them doing injury to herself and her children. In 1865 they were notified beforehand of the Indian depredations so that she had opportunity to escape

in time. She got out of bed in the middle of the night, took her children, one before the other behind her, on a horse, and rode up to the town, where all the women in the settlement had gathered. They all stayed in the Stafford and Rich Hotel which stood on the corner where the Masonic building now is, until the danger from the Indians were over. That was the night in which Col Kimbal and others were killed on the divide. The spring of 1865 was the time of the celebrated bread-famine in Montana. For two weeks Mrs. Beall and her children lived on Elk-meat "Straight." A part of the time the only meat that they had was from an elk that had been found dead, which they could not eat until hunger forced them to it. During all that winter they had no vegetables at all, save a few potatoes that had been frozen, which a friend sent in to her. Flour which was not to be had at any price, was said to be worth \$150. a sack. The large part of the real troubles of Mrs. Beall's life, which arose from an ill-assorted marriage, must of course be passed over here in silence, with the bringing about of that marriage she herself had had little enough to do, and all who know her will be ready to believe, that the responsibility of after troubles does not belong to her. On her part the separation was certainly justifiable, which took place between her and her husband in something like two years after she came to Montana. But her domestic troubles were not to end with her separation. Her little girls were stealthily abducted from her in 1867 and taken east. There Minnie the younger died in the following year of Diphtheria, and Lola the elder in the after with heart disease. Thus the most serious ill which we mortals know, have added their burden of sorrow to an eventful life.

In November 1868 she was married to her present husband, Mr. W. J. Beall, and Bozeman has been her home ever since. As we have said she is the pioneer of the ladies of Bozeman. Mr. W. J. Davies and family of Bridger came out to Montana in the same train. Mrs. Beall has always been foremost in all good works and in all women's enterprises in her home. She has for many years been a communicant of St. James Episcopal Church, and is the oldest living member of that society. She has been an interested and active member of the W.C.T.U. Organization in Bozeman, since it first started here. Mrs. Beall is surrounded by a host of loving friends, whose hope and prayer it is, that the latter years of her life may be passed in peace among them, devoted to the good works in doing which she strives to follow the example of her master.

Biographical Encyclopedia Entry

Full Name: Rosa Viola Barker Van Vlierden Beall was born on June 29, 1838. She died on April 16, 1930.

b. June 29, 1838

d. April 16, 1930

Rosa Viola Barker Van Vlierden Beall was the first white woman to settle in Bozeman, Montana Territory, on August 1, 1864. Bozeman was considered the end of the wagon train route known as the Bozeman Trail

Rosa Viola Barker was born in Collinsville, Lewis County, New York. When she was 26 years old she became the first white woman to settle in Bozeman, Montana on August 1, 1864, near the end of the Civil War between the States. She had experienced the Battle of Lexington in Lexington, Missouri in 1861 when she was a passenger on a steamboat traveling from St. Joseph to St. Louis, Missouri. In 1864, she participated in America's westward expansion when she and her husband and two daughters joined a wagon train. This wagon train, known as the Townsend Train, traveled along the Bozeman Trail and became the first wagon train to experience casualties from the Indian tribes living along the trail. The United States policy of Manifest Destiny changed the complexion of the land obtained from the Louisiana Purchase and explored by the Corps of Discovery in the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Manifest Destiny brought about drastic changes in the way of life of the indigenous peoples who had occupied the land for hundreds of years previously. Rosa Beall was one of the thousands of people to settle in the western United States who believed that settling this land was their birthright.

Rosa Viola Barker married Abram Hammel Van Vlierden on November 20, 1856. They had two daughters, Lola and Minnie, in 1859 and 1861. When an ill-advised marriage reached its final level of tolerance on January 1, 1867, Rosa Van Vlierden separated from her husband. Her two young daughters were forced to live with a mutual friend of the family. In July or September 1867, their father left Bozeman with the two daughters and headed east, without their mother's permission or knowledge. Their mother never saw them again because the two girls died in May 1869 and October 1870. Rosa Van Vlierden divorced her husband in December 1867 and later married William J. Beall, one of the original founders of Bozeman.

As Mrs. W. J. Beall, she devoted the remaining 62 years of her life to helping build the Bozeman community into a model of civilization. She wrote histories of the pioneer days of Bozeman, she served as a librarian in Bozeman's first subscription library, was a charter member of St. James Episcopal Church, where she taught Sunday School, served as a treasurer of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, was a President of the Pioneers' Society of Gallatin County, and was instrumental in the formation of the first city park for the community.

Rosa Beall was friends with or acquainted with many important figures in American history, and America's struggle with defining itself after the War Between the States from 1861 to 1865. Bozeman and Montana became a melting pot of northerners and southerners who fled the ravages of war in hopes of a better life, unlimited opportunity, and potential prosperity. As a member of the Townsend Train on the Bozeman Trail she experienced the beginning of the Indian Wars, which were waged by the United States government in order to force the tribes living on the Great Plains into assimilation and submission. She knew John M. Bozeman personally and dedicated a monument in his honor in 1926 that is located in Livingston, MT and still stands today. She entertained and served with the Right Reverend Daniel S. Tuttle, who was a pioneer bishop in Bozeman and Montana. She and her first husband homesteaded and later leased that land to Nelson Story—a wealthy rancher and entrepreneur who played a major role in the economic history of Montana. That homestead would become one of the first Story ranches in Montana in 1867. She was an acquaintance with William Y. Pemberton, a southerner who was one of Montana's first Chief Justices of the Montana Supreme Court, and a jurist during the days of Vigilante justice in Virginia City, MT. After she arrived in Montana she started collecting newspaper clippings of events regarding Montana and Montanans. By the time the St. Paul Pioneer Press featured her in a news story on June 13, 1926 they maintained, "so that today she probably has the largest history of Montana in existence." (From the Mrs. W. J. Beall Scrapbook on file at the Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections Library, Montana State University) As the wife of one of the members of the Masonic Lodge no. 6, and as a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, she helped a group of people become "one nation under God" because those organizations were comprised of members who had immigrated from the northern states and from the southern states. Through her perseverance and generous spirit, she helped develop a community of Americans, not just a nation consisting of northerners and southerners.

Information sources in Montana on Rosa Beall and her family can be found at:
Montana State Library, Special Collections, Renne Library, Bozeman
Bozeman Public Library, Montana Room, Vertical File, Bozeman history
Gallatin County Pioneer Museum, Bozeman, MT
Montana Historical Society Archives, Helena, MT
University of Montana, Mansfield Library Archives, Missoula, MT
Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder, County Courthouse, Bozeman, MT
Gallatin County Clerk of Court, Law and Justice Center, Bozeman, MT
Territorial records of Montana, Virginia City, MT
St. James Episcopal Church, Bozeman, MT
Order of the Eastern Star, Lily of the Valley Chapter, Bozeman, MT

Other sources:

Collinsville, Lewis County, New York for birth records—June 29, 1838.
Herkimer County, New York
Fairfield Seminary, Fairfield, Herkimer County, New York

**Judy Brown McKenna, Librarian
Chief Joseph Middle School
Bozeman, MT
August 21, 2006**

**Teaching American History
Telling Lives**

Rosa Viola Barker Van Vlierden Beall

Rosa Viola Barker Van Vlierden Beall

"I have heard her say in her dear impulsive way, 'It seems at times as tho' my whole life has been spent in building air castles, all of which have fallen down.'" (Mary Long Alderson quoting Rosa Viola Barker Van Vlierden Beall in 1893)

Who was Rosa Viola Barker Van Vlierden Beall? She made many important contributions to the City of Bozeman during the time she lived here—from August 1, 1864 when she was twenty-six years old until she departed this life on April 16, 1930 when she was almost 92 years old. She holds the distinction of being the first white woman settler in Bozeman, Montana. She arrived in the newly formed town of Bozeman in the newly formed territory of Montana with her husband, Abram Hammel Van Vlierden, and two young daughters, Lola and Minnie. Her description of the valley when their wagon descended from Bridger Pass indicated that she felt as if she had finally found her home:

"Well does Mrs. Beall remember the vivid impression which the loveliness of this valley produced upon her, when her eyes first feasted upon it with its luxuriant growth of bunch grass; so high at the time as to come up to the tops of the backs of the oxen. Antelope fed in numbers on it, unseen except when they raised their heads. What a contrast the abundant timber and luxuriant vegetation to the prairie she had just crossed! Wild berries – raspberries, gooseberries and currants – and cherries were gathered by the party as they traveled along. Below Bridger canyon they came upon a vegetable garden near Lyman creek belonging to some bachelor. Camping near there they had for supper that night the first vegetables eaten for three months – a treat, indeed, for those who had lived so long on bread and bacon."

(Alderson 1893, cover page)

Mrs. Beall wrote articles about Bozeman's history for the *Avant Courier*, the *Courier Weekly*, and the *Bozeman Courier* during her long and fruitful residence in Bozeman. She was a charter member of several community organizations such as St. James Episcopal Church, the Lily of the Valley Order of the Eastern Star, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and served as a librarian in Bozeman's first library. However, when she died she had outlived her two daughters, both of her husbands, and many of her friends and family members who had pioneered in the west. The probate of her estate took eleven years to complete, yet it was worth only \$1,373.49, and the court documents regarding her estate do not reveal that she possessed any personal papers or diaries (Gallatin County Clerk of Court 1930). All that remain of any of her personal papers are three handwritten letters to her friend Mrs. W.E. Burke. Those letters are located in the K. Ross Toole archives of the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana in Missoula. The letters attest to Rosa's gentle and loving nature. The following is a transcription of a poem she wrote in 1919 to Mrs. Burke:

To my dear Mrs. Burke
On Her Birthday.

September 1865 after Montana's first territorial Governor, Sidney Edgerton, took an unapproved leave of absence to tend to his personal affairs in Ohio, and Montana's concerns in Washington, D.C (Malone and Roeder 1976).

Included in descriptions of Mrs. Beall's personal effects was a pencil sketch of a cluster of roses that was drawn by her in 1855, "which she treasures among the keepsakes of early days, and which has been much admired for the delicacy and accuracy of the work." (Alderson 1893, cover page). A desk and a piece of plain wood, that had been made from a tree planted in Russia, Herkimer County, New York by Rosa's grandfather Barker when he was a boy, and had homesteaded the property. None of the documents from Mrs. Beall's estate list any of these precious artifacts. Some clues as to their disposition after her death can be found in the probate records of the Gallatin County Clerk of Court in File 1886 (Gallatin County Clerk of Court 1930). For example, the administratrix of her estate was her good friend, Lena Houston. One of the appraisers of her estate was Frank W. Machemer, who is listed in the Polk Directory from 1931 as a general contractor (Polk 1931). One of the witnesses to the disposition of her assets was E.F. Bunker, who is listed as a lawyer in the Polk Directory as late as 1954, but deceased as of 1956 (Polk 1954 and 1956). Mr. Bunker was the son-in-law of another notable Bozeman pioneer, Walter Cooper, according to the book, *A most desperate situation: Frontier adventures of a young scout, 1858-1864*. This book is an autobiography of the life and times of Walter Cooper and was created in collaboration with Charles M. Russell, the noted western artist (Cooper 2000). What happened to Mrs. Beall's personal effects when she died?

Mrs. Beall lived in a great many places during her lifetime, especially when one considers the modes of transportation that were available at the time of her travels:

Collinsville, Lewis County, New York: June 29, 1838—Rosa Viola Barker born to James and Olive Phelps Barker, the second of what would become a family of eight children; three boys, five girls.

Cold Brook, Herkimer County, New York: ~1850—family moves to Cold Brook. Rosa attends Fairfield Seminary in nearby Fairfield, Herkimer County, New York. Rosa described fond memories of playing at her grandfather Barker's farm in nearby Russia, New York. According to the article, Mr. Barker moved to Russia, New York from Westfield, Massachusetts when he was a boy: "for he was one of the hardy pioneers of New York state, and made of just that sturdy material which helps a state's growth in glory and material prosperity. While yet a boy he left his home in Westfield, Mass. And traveled on foot through what was then a wilderness to Russia, in Herkimer county, New York. There he built up a home and fortune and died in 1881 at the age of ninety seven, respected and beloved by all who knew him." (Alderson 1893, cover page) Westfield, Massachusetts is a small town in southwestern Massachusetts that is about forty miles from the New York state border, and then another 120 miles to Russia, New York. Rosa's grandfather Barker was born in 1784 in Massachusetts, if he was 97 years old when he died in 1881. He was born just eight years after the Declaration of Independence was signed. His parents were probably alive during the American Revolution, and they may have fought on the side of the patriots during the American Revolution.

Edinboro, Erie County, Pennsylvania: ~ 1855 when Rosa was 17 years old. Taught piano in Edinboro for a year after graduating from Fairfield Seminary. At this point, students could be asked to look at a map to determine the distance between Fairfield, New York and Edinboro, Pennsylvania; then asked to decide how Rosa might have traveled to Pennsylvania. What were the modes of travel available to her at that time?

Whitewater, Walworth County, Wisconsin: September 1856. Rosa joins her parents and siblings, who had recently moved to this community that is located in southeastern Wisconsin. On November 20, 1856 she married Abram Hammel Van Vlierden who was living in Byron, Illinois at the time they got married. (Walworth County, WI 1856)

March 17, 1859: Lola Van Vlierden, the oldest daughter of Rosa and Abram H. Van Vlierden, was born.

December 16, 1861: Minnie Van Vlierden was born.

None of the records indicate where Lola and Minnie were born; however, whenever Rosa describes the significant memories of her life in newspaper stories, she always mentions being held prisoner on a steamboat during the Battle of Lexington, Missouri, which occurred between September 18-20, 1861. Even though the newspaper articles put Rosa in Lexington, MO in 1862, if she was affected by the Battle of Lexington, MO and the hemp warehouse fire, it would have been 1861. Diaries from the time period written by Confederate soldiers indicate that General Slack's division captured the steamboat Clarabell and two steam ferry boats on Wednesday, September 18, 1861. (Hyde 1861). Given the substantiation from the diaries (that steamboats were captured during the battle) it is feasible that Rosa was on a steamboat during the Battle of Lexington. If she was on a steamboat at that time, she would have been about six months pregnant with Minnie, and Lola would have been about two and a half years old. One can imagine the fear she and her young daughter must have felt when the steamboat was captured. She said they were laid up for several days after the battle because the "steamer" ran onto a sand bar and all the passengers on board were forced to go on short rations and were forced to drink from the muddy waters of the Missouri River. Rosa said that the steamer was carrying a large number of 'secesh' prisoners and called them "a rough and desperate body of men." (Alderson 1893, cover page) The steamer proceeded onto Saint Louis after a brief stop in Alton, Illinois to unload the Confederate prisoners of war. The newspaper article indicates that the Van Vlierdens went back to Whitewater, Wisconsin shortly after their "Civil War Experience", and stayed there until the spring of 1864. It is logical to conclude that both Lola and Minnie were born in Whitewater, Wisconsin. Rosa and Abram could have wandered for two and a half years—1856 to 1859—after they got married and then returned to Whitewater in 1859 to await the birth of their first child, then returned to Whitewater again in 1861 after the Battle of Lexington, to await the birth of their second child. The second child, Minnie, was born on December 16, 1861. Birth records from Walworth County, Wisconsin could substantiate whether it was the birthplace of Lola and Minnie. Rosa's reminiscences, published in 1893, do not mention the birthplaces of her daughters. One fact that is not clear from any of the records is what Rosa was doing in St. Joseph, Missouri at that time. The records do not indicate clearly whether her husband was with her, or whether it was just her daughter, Lola.

In the spring of 1864 with a two and a half year old and a five-year-old daughter, the Van Vlierdens set out for Grinnell, Iowa, which was the end of the line for the railroad at the time. From there families would get outfitted with wagons for the “great unsettled west”, and the possibility of getting rich from the gold fields of Virginia City (Malone and Roeder 1976). The family drove their wagon from Grinnell to Council Bluffs, Iowa. On May 1, 1864 they headed toward Laramie, Wyoming where they would join other trains for greater safety. When they reached Fort Laramie they joined the Townsend train—a band of immigrants consisting of 150 wagons, three hundred sixty nine men, thirty-six women, fifty-six children, 636 oxen, 79 horses, 10 mules 194 cows, the ability to shoot 1,641 times without reloading, and a total value of \$130,000 (Brundage 1864, 210). The wagon train reached the Powder River near present day Kaycee, Wyoming where the 4th of July was celebrated with “shot and shell” and a general uproar not at all pleasing to the little band of immigrants.” (Alderson 1893, cover page) According to the diary of T. J. Brundage who traveled on the Townsend Train with the Van Vlierdens and kept a detailed record of the journey, the train was attacked. He gives a detailed description of an attack by a group of twelve Cheyenne Indians on July 7th in which four members of the train were killed. The book, *Promise: Bozeman's trail to destiny*, by Serle Chapman, gives a Native American perspective on westward expansion. A note near the end of the book states that the Townsend Train was attacked by Cheyenne warriors who were members of the “Kit Fox Society.” (Chapman 2004, 201) These warriors would have been considered criminals as a result of the attack, even though the wagon train was trespassing through land that had been negotiated through treaties as belonging to the Cheyenne, Sioux, and Arapahoe tribes. By November 1864, a band of peaceful Cheyenne Indians camped at nearby Sand Creek in Colorado Territory would be massacred by U. S. Cavalry soldiers stationed at Fort Lyon (The West Film Project and WETA. 2001).

Rosa and her family were not injured during the attack, but it must have been a traumatic event for all members of the wagon train to see their neighbors killed. On July 20th, Rosa and her family would experience another trauma when their wagon was nearly swept away by the rushing waters of the Big Horn River. Rosa described the event in her newspaper narratives, but T. J. Brundage’s diary puts him at the scene and possibly as one of the family’s saviors: “on July 20th we had a serious time in crossing the Big Horn River. One wagon swan down stream, but was saved. I in leading the oxen across grabbed a rope that was thrown to me, & under I went but afterwards regained a foothold and came across.” (Brundage 1864, 211) By August 1, 1864, Rosa Viola Barker Van Vlierden’s overland journey to the newly formed Montana Territory had ended. She arrived via New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa, and along the Bozeman Trail through Nebraska and Wyoming.

One would have hoped that after all the trials of getting to Bozeman, Rosa would have settled into a comfortable life of tending to her husband, and raising her two daughters. That life of close familial ties was not meant for Rosa and her family.

When the Van Vlierden family arrived in Bozeman on August 1, 1864, some of the members of their party included Col. Kimball, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Davies, and Mr. and

Mrs. Deuble. The family took the land offered by William J. Beall, who was sitting in a tent on the present day northwest corner of Main Street and Bozeman Avenue waiting for his partner, Daniel Rouse, to return from buying provisions. Beall, Rouse, and John Bozeman had recently staked a claim to form the city of Bozeman. They were looking for people to settle in their new community, so when the Van Vlierdens were offered free land, they claimed a section that was described in the plat found in the Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder's office as,

"Beginning in the center of the channel of the Creek running through Bozertown in said County, at a point one and one fourth miles in a northerly direction from Mendinhalls saloon in Bozertown aforesaid and running thence in a westerly direction along the line bounding one double chain of land on the north one mile, thence in a northerly direction at right angles to the line last described one fourth of a mile, thence in an easterly direction at right angles to the line last described one mile to the channel of said creek, thence in a southerly direction along the center of said channel to the place of beginning supposed to contain 160 acres, together with all and singular the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging including a water privilege taken and located by me on the 19 day of August, A D 1865 and recorded in the records of said Gallatin County in Book E of said records page 89.

Abram Van Vlierden unpacked the wagon once they had decided which section of town to claim. He used the double decker wagon box as their makeshift home. They camped on their property for three months in the second story of the wagon with its canvass top set on the ground and a small canvass tent placed at the rear. This wagon box and canvas did not provide much protection for Rosa, Lola, and Minnie; therefore, one night while they were alone, a pack of wolves threatened them. Rosa and the girls climbed into the wagon box and used trunks to surround themselves from the wolves. "The howling wolves outside leaped higher and higher until it seemed as though the next moment would surely bring them over the barriers." (Alderson 1893, cover page) Mr. Van Vlierden arrived just in the nick of time to save his family from the wolves. In the fall, he built a sod cabin for the family, using sod houses he had seen in Nebraska as his model. The cabin opened into a log building that was built to keep the stock. The door and window casements were built out of wood from the wagon box, and carpets were used to cover the door and window. That sod house stayed standing until about 1885.

One can only imagine the cold the family endured their first winter in Bozeman. They used fallen timber as fuel for the fire in the cook stove they had brought with them. They did not have coal oil or enough candles to burn for light. The candles were reserved for evenings when they had company. Water was available from the nearby creek. Their winter diet consisted of bread, bacon, rye, coffee, and occasional game meat. Rosa made butter from the family's two cows and sold it at the Stafford & Rice Hotel for \$2.00 per pound that first winter. They had to buy hay for their stock during the winter because they had arrived too late to plant a crop to feed the stock. The money from the butter was used to buy hay for the stock that Mr. Van Vlierden purchased in the valley. Miraculously, Rosa had planned ahead and brought nuts, candy, and little picture books with her on their journey to Bozeman. She presented them to Lola and Minnie, along

with little cakes she had stayed up to bake, enabling the little girls to have a happy Christmas during that first December of 1864. "One listening to Mrs. Beall's recital of how 'Santa Claus' came to the household that night would conclude that the time was one of the brightest and happiest of her life." (Alderson 1893, cover page) A research paper of Christmas at the time of the Civil War written by Joanne Shelby at Carnegie Mellon University indicates that Christmas would have been celebrated with a tree, evergreens, and unwrapped presents sitting beneath it. Christmas carols such as Silent Night, Oh, Come all Ye Faithful, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, It Came upon a Midnight Clear, and Deck the Halls were popular and sung by many Americans by 1864 (Shelby 1998). According to Mr. Van Vlierden's great nephew, Clarence Plank, Abram was the grandson of the Rev. Petrus Van Vlierden, who was born in 1737 and died in 1821. Rev. Van Vlierden was one of the first Dutch ministers at Kingston, Ulster County, N.Y. (Plank 1967) Given that Abram was of Dutch descent and Sinter Klass (which became Santa Claus in the United States) is a Dutch tradition, it is credible that Lola and Minnie believed that if they hung up their stockings they would receive "A Visit from St. Nicholas." The poem by that name was written by Clement C. Moore in 1822, so it would have been popular by 1864. (NYISE n.d.)

A bread famine occurred during the spring of 1865, causing flour prices to soar to \$150.00 a sack, so the mother and daughters were forced to eat elk meat for two weeks straight. The elk meat they ate had been obtained from a dead elk they found. Hunger forced them to eat the meat. By summer, however, they were able to eat potatoes, turnips, radishes, onions, and other vegetables that they harvested from their own vegetable garden. When the girls would bring up the produce from the cellar the following winter they would say, "Now mamma, let us have some 'apples' to eat." (Alderson 1893, cover page) That same spring of 1865, Mr. Van Vlierden finished the log house he had built for his family. The roof was dirt so when it rained in the spring the dirt from the roof would cause the "rain" to keep falling. On those "rainy" days Rosa would place an umbrella she had brought with her from the east over the girls' bed to prevent the dirt from falling on them. Stories such as this and Abram Van Vlierden's Dutch heritage may evoke images of *Rip Van Winkle*, written in 1819 by Washington Irving, in some readers.

During the summer of 1865 Rosa and Abram found it necessary to escape with their daughters to the safety of the Stafford & Rice Hotel because Colonel Kimball had been killed on the "Divide" that day, presumably by Indians. She rode into town on her horse with one daughter in front of her, the other behind. It took them until midnight to ride from their land north of Bozeman to the hotel located on the corner of Main Street and Bozeman Avenue, or Main Street and Tracy Avenue, depending to which Masonic Lodge she was referring when she described this event in 1893. She said that Indians often came to her house and she regarded them as "very annoying and troublesome." Nevertheless, she often fed them good dinners, but sometimes drove them away--once with a revolver--because she was afraid they meant to harm her and the girls. The white settlers had staked claim to the traditional hunting grounds of Crow, Blackfeet, and Shoshone tribes. Perhaps the Indians meant to welcome their new neighbors, according to their customs, when they visited her. They may have become "very annoying and troublesome" because they were not accustomed to people living permanently on the land they had used for hunting.

Maybe they were merely trying to encourage Rosa and her family to move along before the winter caused them discomfort.

The newspaper accounts of Rosa's early life in Bozeman do not provide many details about her life after the family's first year. In one undated account of Rosa's reminiscences with Mary Long Alderson, Rosa mentions that one of Bozeman's first school teachers, Miss Florence A. Boyce, lived with the Van Vlierdens during the fall of 1866, and until January 1, 1867. Miss Boyce was Lola's and Minnie's teacher during that time. (Alderson n.d.)

Records available at the Clerk of Court of Gallatin County provide some picture of the events experienced by the Van Vlierdens between 1866 and 1867. On about November 10, 1866 a man named Samuel James filed a lawsuit against Abram Van Vlierden in the amount of \$32.55 for labor. On November 17, 1866 Van Vlierden demanded a change of venue in the case, which was granted. By December 22, 1866 Van Vlierden and a man named Robert C. Knox acknowledged in a court document that they owed and were indebted to Samuel James in the sum of three hundred dollars. A Justice of the Peace named John Pickens had ruled against Van Vlierden and Knox on December 3, 1866. Van Vlierden appealed that judgment to District Court. The document dated December 22, 1866 states that Van Vlierden will pay James, but only if he loses his appeal. Samuel James was summoned on March 4, 1867 to appear in District Court on April 1, 1867 to answer Van Vlierden's appeal. By July 11, 1867 the amount of the lawsuit had been changed to \$98.83 and a judgment was rendered in favor of Van Vlierden against Samuel James and F. F. Fridley. There is a note from Sheriff J. C. Guy dated September 20, 1867 stating that the judgment had been satisfied in full. In the midst of the lawsuits that Van Vlierden had against James and Fridley, there are records at the Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder's office stating that Van Vlierden leased his property described above to Nelson Story on July 5, 1867. The length of the lease was to be for ninety-nine years. The record indicates that Nelson Story paid Van Vlierden \$300.00 for the lease. The next day, July 6, 1867, Van Vlierden sold the same property to Elias Story for \$300.00. The legal document states, "In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal on the 6th day of July, 1867. Signed by Abram H. Van Vlierden. Witnesses: L. B. Lyman, Nelson Story. Received for record 6 July, 1867 at 10 o'clock P M. Signed by R P Vivion, Recorder. Gallatin Co. M T." (Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder 1867, 95)

The transactions mentioned above are significant because they suggest that Van Vlierden was still in Bozeman on September 20, 1867. Rosa's pioneer reminiscences with Mary Long Alderson state that Rosa and Abram separated on January 1, 1867, and Rosa got a divorce from the Montana Territorial legislature on December 21, 1867. The records of the date of her divorce and the divorce decree would be on file in the Clerk of Court's office, Virginia City, Madison County, Montana, if they still exist. Lola and Minnie were left with a mutual friend while the legal system decided which parent would get custody of them. While the girls were in the care of this unidentified friend, Abram "stealthily stole them and hurriedly carried them east. Mrs. Beall [however, she was still Mrs. Van Vlierden at that time] never saw them again." (Alderson 1893, cover page) Minnie died in 1869 of diphtheria and Lola died in 1870 of heart disease. The records do not indicate

the date that Abram left with the girls. Whether it was on July 6, 1867, the night he sold the family farm to Elias Story for \$300.00, or on September 20, 1867, could always remain a mystery. Did Rosa visit her daughters at the "common friend's" home throughout the separation? How odd that she did not mention the exact date she was separated from her daughters in her reminiscences. A 21st century mother would recite the exact time and date the children were last seen if such a tragedy occurred. The reminiscence does state, "the loss of her children was a shock from which Mrs. Beall has never recovered." (Alderson 1893, cover page) By the time she was thirty-two years old, Rosa had lost both of her children due to an acerbic family affair.

Homeless and penniless after her separation, the loss of her two daughters, and subsequent divorce, Rosa had to rely on the kindness of her friends to survive. One account states that she lived with the L. B. Lyman family. Lyman was a notary public and one of the witnesses when Van Vlierden sold the family farm to Elias Story on July 6, 1867 at 10:00 p.m. (Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder). She also lived with a woman named Mrs. Meredith (who may have been the wife of J. A. Meredith, a lawyer and Justice of the Peace in Gallatin County in 1866 and 1867) for a time and helped her sew clothing for herself and her children in preparation of a trip east. Rosa received a hand-held sewing machine in payment for her services. She used the sewing machine to sew up to 1,000 flour sacks per day for the McAdow and Coover flourmill. Some days she sewed enough flour sacks to earn \$10.00 per day. She was able to save quite a bit of money in a short time making the flour sacks. She must have found solace in sewing the flour sacks because she spoke with enthusiasm when speaking of the flour. "'Why', she says, 'I could make better bread out of that flour than out of any other I have since obtained. I have often wished for another sack of McAdow & Coover's flour.'" (Alderson 1893, cover page)

Rosa married William J. Beall on November 15, 1868, exactly twelve years after she had married Abram H. Van Vlierden. Rev. L. B. Statler, Minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church South officiated at the ceremony held at the home of "Missus Paul Woodruff" in Williw Creek, Madison County, Montana Territory (Madison County, MT 1868). Her life became much smoother after marrying William J. Beall. She was able to devote her efforts to helping build the Bozeman community through her work with her church teaching Sunday School, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Pioneers' Society of Gallatin County, and the Order of the Eastern Star. William Y. Pemberton, the librarian for the Montana Historical Society (MHS), asked Rosa to write a 50th year anniversary recollection of Montana's territorial history that appeared in the *Weekly Courier* on July 8, 1914. Her recollections of people and events connected with Montana's early history provide a vivid account of Bozeman's earliest days. She concludes her recollections with some insightful comments about those early people:

"Most of those big, warm-hearted, whole-souled and progressive men of those early days of Bozeman and Gallatin valley have passed over on the other shore. Few are left to remember them in their goodness as well as their weakness and mistakes. Let us cover them with the mantle of charity and loving kindness. They have done what they thought was best for themselves and for their beautiful city

It is important to note that Rosa was 18 years old when she married Abram Hammel Van Vlierden. He was 26 years old and, according to his great nephew, Clarence Plank, had already been married once before. Rosa would have been 20 years old when Lola was born (Lola was born in March 1859, Rosa's 21st birthday would have been at the end of June) and 23 years old when Minnie was born. She would have celebrated her 26th birthday on June 29, 1864. The diary of Benjamin Williams Ryan states that the Townsend train had traveled 15 miles that day, but had to go an additional 12 miles to find water. Ryan says they finally found water at Sand Spring Creek, but it was not satisfying to the taste (Ryan 1864). Rosa was thirty years old when her youngest daughter, Minnie, died. She was 32 years old when Lola died. Rosa's husband, Abram, was 34 years old at the time they arrived in Bozeman. Rosa did not have any more children.

One final noteworthy event in the life of Rosa Beall was the sale of her property on North Bozeman Avenue to the city of Bozeman for the purpose of building a playground for children. Rosa wrote a letter to the city of Bozeman, a copy of which was published in the July 17, 1918 edition of the *Weekly Courier*. She offered to sell her property to the city for \$5,000. Her letter stated that the amount was \$1,000 less than her asking price. Reports of subsequent city commission meetings indicate that the city fathers were reluctant to assess city residents to pay for this land, which consisted of an entire city block. The debate among city commissioners whether to purchase the property continued for several years. Rosa was unable to receive a commitment from the city for the money to purchase the property. a fund was set up and the land was purchased after a three year fund-raising effort through private donations largely through the hard work and foresight of "club women", especially Mrs. Mary Doane (*Bozeman Courier* 1927, 8). On October 10, 1927 the Recreational Center building at Beall Park—a \$15,000 gift to the City of Bozeman by Mrs. E. Broox Martin—was dedicated in the "presence of an audience that included many of the leading men and women of Bozeman and the Gallatin valley. In addition, fully 300 children from the high and the grade schools witnessed the event." (*Bozeman Courier* 1927, cover page)

An interesting side note about Mrs. Martin is that her husband, E. Broox Martin, was the Vice-President of The Houston Narcotic Institute of Bozeman. According to an ad in the *Avant Courier* placed on July 15, 1893, this institute was "a company organized for the treatment and permanent cure of the Liquor Opium, Morphine and Tobacco habits." (*Avant Courier* 1893, cover page) Does Mrs. Martin's \$15,000. gift of the Recreation Center at Beall Park lead one to conclude that drug addiction treatment centers were a lucrative business in Bozeman in the late 19th to early 20th centuries?

Rosa moved into the Evergreen Apartments (#101) on Koch Street when her house sold in 1920, where she lived for ten years. The death certificate of Rosa Viola Beall states that she died in the Deaconess Hospital in Bozeman, Montana on April 16, 1930 at the age of 91 years, 9 months, 17 days. The principal cause of death was corcinoma [carcinoma] of uterus, with senility being a contributory cause of her death. Dr. J. F. Blair was the medical doctor who signed her death certificate, and Hagaman Funeral Home of Bozeman, Montana attended to her at the time of her death. Her dear friend, Mrs. E. L.

(Lina) Houston, was with her when she died. She was buried next to husband, William J. Beall, in the Masonic Cemetery in Bozeman, Montana on April 18, 1930. Her headstone and that of her husband William can be found in the Masonic section of Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman.

Rosa lamented that her life seemed as if she had built air castles, all of which had fallen down; however, one must argue that she was a visionary. Her faith, courage, and pioneer spirit brought her to Bozeman. Her perseverance allowed her to forge ahead in spite of the unspeakable loss of her children. Her foresight allowed her to offer to the city, the block of land for sale as a playground for children, and her efforts helped build a community that is currently the envy of the U. S. for its quality of life (Brown 2006). The words she spoke about the City of Bozeman in 1914 on the 50th anniversary of her arrival are as true now as they were then: "she has seen it grow from two log cabins to one of hundreds of beautiful homes with a population of 8,000 people having the best religious and educational advantages possible. Through it all she has been most highly respected and esteemed by all who know her." (Beall scrapbook 1914, 19) Rosa Viola Barker Van Vlierden Beall may not have followed the socially acceptable mores of her day; nevertheless, she provides a model of courage and perseverance for building a community. She deserves the utmost respect of the people who have lived after her.

Ideas for Classroom Extension:

Students could locate interesting advertisements or articles from 1845 – 1890 and relate them to current issues (e.g., an article from 1927 in the *Bozeman Courier* discusses the problem of public displays of affection among teenagers and the ban of such behavior by the school board).

Students could draw their own covered wagon and identify the parts of the wagon to relate to the size and shape of life on the Bozeman Trail. (University of Oregon n.d.)

Students could churn butter so they would gain an understanding of the sacrifices made by Rosa and her family when they sold butter to the Stafford and Rice Hotel for \$2.00 per pound.

Students could research the Declaration of Sentiments that occurred on July 19-20, 1848 in Seneca Falls, N. Y., notice its proximity to Lewis County, New York, and debate whether Rosa and her family would have been affected by that event. Discuss the historical significance of that event.

Students could write to Ulster County, New York, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Toledo, Ohio, Chicago, Illinois, and Denver, Colorado for the birth and death certificates of A. H. Van Vlierden, Lola Van Vlierden, and Minnie Van Vlierden to add those primary source documents to the information that is available on Rosa Beall.

Students could look at a Sanborn map of Bozeman from 1890 and compare it to a present day map of the city.

(Flynn) Fenlon. Her mother lives at Ballantine, while her father, now deceased, was a traveling salesman. Mr. and Mrs. Boschert have one daughter, Margaret Lewine, born July 7, 1918.

WILLIAM J. BEALL. The history of the City of Bozeman would be far from complete without a sketch of William J. Beall, who was one of the founders of the little city that is the county seat of Gallatin County. Mr. Beall was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, May 19, 1834, was educated in the public schools of his native city and studied for his profession as an architect and builder in the office of his father, Benjamin Beall, who then stood high in his profession in Pennsylvania.

William J. Beall moved to Kansas in 1856, from there to Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and in 1862 to Denver and in March, 1863, arrived in Montana. For a few months he engaged in mining at Virginia City, but January, 1864, found him in the Gallatin Valley, where he located a mine, but sold his interest to his partner a few months later and in company with D. E. Rouse came to the present site of Bozeman, where they located adjoining farms in the month of July and built the first two houses.

The division line between the farms was where the old Laclède Hotel building stands on Main Street and Bozeman Avenue, Rouse's quarter section lying east and Beall's west of that line. The government survey afterwards threw Mr. Beall's line farther east, making what is now Rouse Street his east line, with Main Street his south line. Mr. Beall built his house on Bozeman Street, near Main, just back of the site of the Masonic Temple. Mr. Rouse built on the south side of Main Street, east of Bozeman Avenue. After a few years Mr. Beall was in partnership with W. H. Tracy, who took up a claim adjoining Mr. Beall's on the west, and part of these claims were platted into town lots.

In the winter of 1865-66 Mr. Beall did the car-

penyer work on the large story and a half log residence erected on the Alderson ranch a mile south of Bozeman. While holding his claim and as his time and means would permit he followed his trade as carpenter and builder in Bozeman and in other towns in Montana. In 1868 he built a residence on Bozeman Avenue, four blocks from Main Street. This has long been recognized as one of the picturesque and attractive homes of the city. Here Mr. Beall died September 3, 1903. His wife, still living, has enjoyed the comforts of that home since November, 1868.

Many business blocks and residences in Bozeman are monuments to Mr. Beall's architectural skill. The old Sacred Heart Cathedral Building, built in 1874-75, and the Herald Building, erected in 1875 at Helena, are among the buildings still standing in other parts of the state. Mrs. Beall still cherishes among her records a testimonial from the building committee of the Cathedral in the handwriting of Robert C. Walker, consisting of an extract from the minutes of the building committee of the Roman Catholic Church, Helena, Montana Territory, October 5, 1874, as follows:

"Whereas, it has been deemed necessary on account of the lateness of the season and on account of disappointment in the delivery of the required cut stone, to temporarily suspend work upon the church, and

"Whereas, W. J. Beall, the architect and superintendent of the building, has given the committee great satisfaction by his definite and artistic plans and specifications drawn according to designs originating with himself,

"Therefore, resolved, that the Building Committee of the Roman Catholic Church tender to Mr. Beall their thanks and this expression of their approbation for his energy and skill displayed in behalf of the building and for the faithful performance of the duties reposed in him.

"L. F. LaCroix, chairman,
"Robert C. Walker, secretary."

In the spring of 1875, as the records show, Mr. Beall was sent for by the building committee to superintend the completion of the structure, which he did to the utmost satisfaction of all concerned. The building after completion was called the "Sacred Heart Cathedral" and it was only a few years ago that a larger cathedral was erected. A prominent architect from the east while visiting in Helena a few years ago noticed this Sacred Heart Cathedral and said it was one of the finest specimens of architectural skill he had seen in the West.

Mr. Beall was a quiet and unobtrusive citizen, ever attentive to whatever business he had in hand. He was universally recognized as one of the most honorable and upright business men of the community, a gentleman in every sense of the word. He was made a Mason in Gallatin Lodge No. 6 in 1866, and was interested in all the subsequent growth and advancement of the lodge. He was a charter member of the Pioneers Society of Gallatin County and also a member of the Society of Montana Pioneers. He is survived by his wife, formerly Rosa V. Barker, whom he married in November, 1868.

MRS. W. J. BEALL, whose maiden name was Rosa V. Barker, enjoys the distinction of having been the first white woman to locate at Bozeman, coming here August 1, 1864. Bozeman has been her home ever since, though she has traveled east and west since she could travel by railroad. For more than half a century her home has been a comfortable residence on Bozeman Avenue, North, erected by her husband in 1868. Plans are now under way to

secure the block of ground on which the Beall residence stands, originally a part of the Beall homestead, for a recreation park as a memorial to the young men of this community who served in the World war.

Mrs. Beall's father was James Barker, an early pioneer of Montana. She was born in Lewis County, New York, and spent there the early years of her life. She graduated from Fairfield Seminary in New York, making a specialty of music and art, in both of which she was very proficient. She taught music in the seminary for one year and is still identified with the alumni society of the school.

She moved with her parents to Wisconsin and went through many trying experiences in the South during the Civil war, and in crossing the plains with her husband and two little girls in 1864 she had many narrow escapes from being killed by Indians. They had other trying experiences and in crossing the Big Horn River she and the children came near being drowned.

Mrs. Beall has taken an active part in the social and religious life of Bozeman, and is highly esteemed by citizens of the community. Her children were a comfort to her in her pioneer days, and the loss of these little ones brought her much grief. When the first Sunday school was organized in 1866 by W. W. Alderson in Bozeman, under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church, she was one of the most active members and was a worker in that pioneer church.

Mrs. Beall helped in establishing St. James Episcopal Church in Bozeman and has been the most faithful communicant ever since, much of the time being a worker in the Sunday School and the Guild. She was a charter member and the first conductress in Lily of the Valley Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, with which she is still identified. In the Pioneers Society of Gallatin County she served as historian for several years, and is now serving her second term as president of this organization. She is also a member of the Society of Montana Pioneers and is identified with the Sons and Daughters of Pioneers of the County and State. For many years she was active in the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Bozeman.

Her husband's career as a Montanan has been sketched on preceding pages. During his lifetime Mrs. Beall assisted him in his business affairs and since his death in 1903 she has looked after her own business with remarkable accuracy. Though past the allotted three score and ten, she is remarkably well and active in body and mind.

Mrs. Beall has lived the life of an earnest Christian, and her strong faith in God through her trials and tribulations has kept her above the sorrows that might have crushed to earth a woman of ordinary character. In the fifty-five years she has lived in Bozeman she has seen the city grow from two log cabins to one with hundreds of beautiful homes and a population of 8,000 people having the best religious and educational advantages possible.

ARAD H. FRANKLIN is an old timer in Montana and the Northwest, has been a miner, contractor and in other lines of business, and is at present representative in the Legislature from Mineral County, with home at Superior.

Mr. Franklin was born in Harrison County, Iowa, July 1, 1868. This branch of the Franklin family came originally from England and settled in Massachusetts in colonial times. His father, Jerome B. Franklin, was born in New York State in 1832, was reared and married there, and afterwards became a farmer in Harrison County, Iowa, and was a