

William Beall



WILLIAM J. BEALL
BOZEMAN.



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.

BEALL, William J.

Stone ✓

House ✓
Street ✓

Born 1834 - Pittsburgh, Pa.

Arrived Valley 1863 came to Gallatin Valley Jan 1864 - located a farm

Later in 1864 moved up the valley & in company of D. E. Rouse

located adjoining farms on site of what is now Bozeman

He & Rouse built first 2 houses in Bozeman

Beall west of N. Bozeman St - Rouse east - 160 acres each

" built lot house near corner of Main & N. Bozeman

in 1868 built in 400 block N. Bozeman

He was an architect

1868 married Rosa Barker (came to Bozeman 1834 & first husband)

Planned & built the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Helena

Mrs Beall first white woman in Bozeman

The Quiet Man *From John Nelson - Good*

William Beall didn't tell us how to pronounce his name

By Phyllis Smith

William Johnston Beall was one of the earliest settlers in the Gallatin region. He farmed, he constructed buildings, he helped to found a church, he held a shot gun during a number of the vigilante hangings, and he invented tools.

Beall was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1834. As a young man, he yearned to construct buildings and, for a time, studied with his father, who was an architect. He left home at the age of twenty-two in 1856,

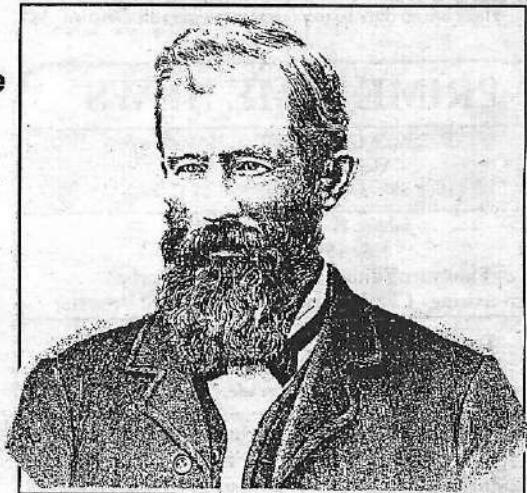
settling for the next several years in Kansas. Despairing of the bloody fights over slavery in that region, Beall came west to Virginia City in the spring of 1863 to try mining for gold, hoping for quick riches. After a few months, he decided that sloshing about in cold water was not to his taste. While resident in Virginia City, he witnessed a number of vigilante hangings in January 1864 and quietly stood guard, his shot gun at the ready, should someone attempt to interfere with the rope.

The following year, he homesteaded near the new settlement at Gallatin City and

got to know Daniel Elliott Rouse, "Elliott" to his friends. The two joined forces with John Bozeman when the wagon train leader suggested that, if the men would lay out a town just west of the pass, he would travel back east to get the people to live in it.

Beall and Rouse platted the present town of Bozeman, despite the marshy land, filed their homesteads, and waited for Bozeman's wagon train and others to bring prospective residents. Beall and Rouse built cabins for themselves and one for Bozeman. Beall lived in his

(See Beall, page 16)



Early Bozeman settler William J. Beall, known for his reticent ways, helped to plat the townsite and designed the first buildings in the community.

W. J. BEALL, BOZEMAN (From The 1885 History of Montana, p. 1102
(William J. Beall - pronounced Bell)

W. J. Beall, Bozeman. Architect, contractor and builder, was born in Philadelphia, Pa., May 19, 1834, and was reared and educated in that state. In 1856 he went to Kansas, and there remained during a greater part of the Border troubles, going thence to Fort Laramie with a train for the Overland Express Co., returning shortly thereafter to Kansas and remaining until 1862, when he went to Denver, Colo. In March, 1863 he came to Montana and engaged in mining in Virginia City. In the following October he went to Salt Lake City, and late in December following returned to Virginia City. In January, 1864 he located in the Gallatin Valley and engaged in farming, being one of the earliest settlers in that vicinity. A part of his time was devoted to architectural work, contracting, building, etc.

His original land claim cornered where the Laclede Hotel now stands, and extends a half mile west on Main Street, and half a mile north on Bozeman street in the present city of Bozeman. On said tract of land were laid out the first and second Additions to the town site of Bozeman.

Himself and Mr. Rouse began building about the same time, and erected the first houses on the present town site.

Mr. Beall was married on the 15th day of December 1868 to Miss Rosa Viola Barker, daughter of Jas. Barker. She was born in Collinsville, N. Y., Lewis Co, and passed her youth in Herkimer Co, same state. She came to Montana with her father, and was the first white lady to come here with the intention of making it her permanent residence.

P. S. #1 Mrs. Beall continued to live in Bozeman, apparently in good health until her death in 1933 at about 93 years of age. She was a kindly handsome lady, a steady helpful member of the St. James Episcopal Church, and often discussed early days in the town.

P. S. #2. The information concerning Mrs. Beall is slightly altered to avoid mentioning her first unfortunate marriage. She came to Bozeman as Mrs. A. Van Vlierden, with two small daughters. No details have been available, but within a few years Mr. Van Vlierden took the daughters to their former home in Ohio, where they died in a few years. Rosa had financial difficulties for a time. One source of income was sewing sacks for feed for the cavalry horses at Fort Ellis. Her small sewing machine is on exhibit in the Gallatin County Pioneer Museum

Note: This scattered material was gathered by Merrill Burlingame, July 1989.

WILLIAM J. Beall. 1885 History, pp. 1102.

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Mr. Bell still owns 90 acres of his original tract of land adjoining Bozeman and enjoys through just and honorable dealings the confidence and respect of the many citizens of the place.

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 Vlieden 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 of 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.

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(Plynn) Penlon. 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