

SOURCE OF LOCAL LANDMARK NAMES

for the Bull Lake Valley, Yaak River Valley and the Troy, Montana Area

Three Rivers Ranger District
Kootenai National Forest

Compiled
By
Jim Calvi
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Introduction

“What’s in a name,” as the old saying goes, is the emphasis of this publication.

Compared to the eastern part of the United States, Lincoln County, Montana is young, a mere hundred and twenty five years old. That is if one counts the time when Lincoln County was a part of Missoula and Flathead Counties. For the first fifty years or so, a good number of the early prospectors, homesteaders, merchants and pioneers of this county were still around and could quite easily tell you about the local landmarks and how some came to be named. But by 1950, most of them had passed on leaving the future to track down information that was common place a generation before. A few early pioneers, took the time to write and left a legacy consisting of a few pages of interesting information on our past. Those folks seemed compelled to leave some information behind and we know now that the two pages could have been a volume had they been encouraged

In 1983 when I came across a two page memorandum by an unknown Yaak Valley resident, documenting landmarks and who or how they were named. I became interested with this effort to preserve such information and found myself over the years adding to that list. The list, generally confined to the Yaak River Valley, eventually was expanded to include the areas around Troy, Montana and the upper portion of the Bull Lake Valley, stopping at the Lincoln and Sanders County Line. As it turned out, the information now fits well with the administration boundaries of the Three Rivers Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest.

The pages of information contained in this document must be considered as preliminary, and only covers a portion of the western part of Lincoln County. One needs only to look at a map to see that there are still many landmarks that would be interesting to know how they were named.

The Source of Local Landmark Names comes from various places. Some information was found in old Forest Service memorandums and reports as well as taken from old Kootenai National Forest maps. Some information was taken from notes and writings of local

homesteaders like Gene Grush and Albert Breitenstein and a few who did not sign or leave their names for recognition. An occasional entry found in old General Land Office Survey notes provided a few names. Historic Forest Service Engineering projects, like road construction survey maps added to the growing list of landmarks. Surprisingly, a number of landmark names were located in the Lincoln County Court House in Libby, where old claims were filed using landmarks now unfamiliar today but appear to have been locally known during the early historic days of this county. A few landmark names have been retrieved from the pages of local Troy newspapers which were printed continuously from 1914 to 1934.

SOURCE OF LOCAL LANDMARK NAMES

ABE LINCOLN MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

The mountain was named for President Lincoln by the early gold miners of the Yahk Mining District in 1895. The north end of the mountain was visited by prospectors from the gold town of Sylvanite, on Fourth of July Creek, while the south end came under the scrutiny of the mining tent camp of Paisley on Wampoo Creek.

ALICE MOUNTAIN (Bull Lake Valley - Iron Creek)

A name used to describe the Freeman Group of Mining Claims, in 1916. This mountain was also known as Haystack Mountain.

ALVORD LAKE (General Troy Area)

Named for Frank E. Alvord, an early 1895 Troy resident who homesteaded 160 acres, which included this lake in 1905. The land was patented to him in 1908. After a succession of owners, the lake is known today as Ninneman Lake.

ANGEL ISLAND (Bull Lake)

The area known today as Angel Island was named for Earl Angell, the cashier for many years in the old Kootenai Valley State Bank in Troy, who help promote the development of Bull Lake around the World War I era. For a short period, in the 1960s, the land was shown as Callow's Island, but the name reverted back to Angel Island by the 1970s.

ARBO CREEK and ARBO MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

Named for George Arbo, a miner who came into the Yaak in 1896 and prospected in the Arbo Creek drainage. George Arbo maintained a small camp along Arbo Creek for two years (1896-1897) as he prospected in the area. He was not a stranger to the Troy area, having prospected and filed on a number of claims on Grouse Mountain between 1890 and 1892.

B & B MINE

(See Banner and Bangle Mine)

BAD MEDICINE CAMPGROUNDS (Bull Lake)

A Forest Service Campgrounds located on the southwestern shore of Bull Lake, an area shunned by the Kootenai Indians after a slide, long ago, devastated a small encampment which killed the inhabitants. The name applies generally to the western shore of Bull Lake.

BAKER LAKE (Bull Lake Valley)

An early named for what is know as Milnor Lake today. Named for Napoleon Baker, a squatter homesteader who settled on land surrounding the lake in 1893. The lake was called Baker Lake between 1893 and c.1905 after which it became known as Milnor Lake.

BANNER MOUNTAIN (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

A early name for Goat Mountain. Named for the Banner Lode claim, of the Banner and Bangle Mine, which was located at the foot of the mountain on the north. The name persisted during the 1890s but eventually was changed shortly after the turn of the century.

BANNER & BANGLE MINE (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

Two important, patented, galena claims located in the Callahan Creek, south of Troy in 1893. The Banner Lode Claim and the Banner Lode Claim were incorporated as the Banner & Bangle Mining Co. in 1895 (often called the B & B Mine). Sold to the Snow Storm Silver-Lead Mining Company in 1916, becoming known as the Snowstorm Mine. Between 1916 and 1927 over four million dollars worth of ore had been removed by the Snow Storm Silver-Lead Company.

BLACK BEAR CREEK (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

Located in the Callahan Creek Drainage, was known simply as Bear Creek prior to c.1920.

BEAR WALLOW SPRINGS (Bull Lake Valley - Iron Creek)

Located southwest of the Liberty Metals Mining Company camp. Located within the old 1930s power line right of way up Grouse Mountain, at 3000' in elevation, and in the SE/SW/SW of Section35, T30N, R34W. The name dates to the 1920s.

BEAVER CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named by an early Yaak Valley trapper. His name is unknown but he had built a cabin on its banks. He left the valley in 1901 when it "became too crowded" when the Roderick family moved into the South Fork of the Yaak.

BELLYACHE DRAW

(See Meeks Creek)

BENEFIELD CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Francis Elmer Benefield, an early trapper in the area and a 1914 Yaak Valley homesteader. The ruins of one of his line cabins is still located on the creek.

BENNING MOUNTAIN and BENNING CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

Named for Frank Benning, first District Ranger at Sylvanite (1908-1909).

BIG EIGHT MINE (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

The name for the two patented galena mining properties, the Heron Lode and Cabinet Lode

claims, located on Callahan Creek in 1889. Became the Big Eight Mining Company in 1897, named for the eight partners in the mine at that time.

BOB CREEK (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

Early maps show this name for a now unnamed drainage up Callahan Creek. It is the first major drainage east of July Creek. It was named for Robert "Big Bob" Hulse, an 1890 prospector. In 1917, it was called Small Creek, and for a short while also called Halahar Creek (also in 1917).

BOX CAR CREEK (Kootenai Falls)

An 1890s name for Koot Creek at Kootenai Falls. In 1896, twenty-two G.N.R.R. cars derailed into the Kootenai and floated over the falls. Some of the broken up cars came to rest below the falls at the mouth of this small creek. There was no way to salvage the cars so they remained in the river. Subsequent flooding of the Kootenai River eventually broke apart and scattered the wreckage. However, a railroad car undercarriage or two may still be seen in the river during periods of low water. The name is shown on the 1897 Montana Map.

BOYD CEMETERY and BOYD CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named in 1954 for Adam E. Boyd, an early prospector who died in 1917 in his cabin near Boyd Creek, and the first person to be buried in the cemetery. Adam Boyd was born in 1863 and appeared to have worked for the railroad until about 1911 when he turned to prospecting.

BROWNING CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Bert Browning, an early settler in 1914.

BUCKHORN LODGE (Yaak River Valley)

The Buckhorn Lodge was the name given to a false front building located above the Yaak Falls, at the mouth of Wampoo Creek on the Harry Higgins homestead. In the 1890s, it was a stage stop between Leonia and Sylvanite. In 1895 a tent mining camp known as Paisley was established on the site, later the lodge was built and called the Paisley House. This structure was the oldest known building in the Yaak Valley until it burned in the spring of 1996.

BUCKHORN MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

Named for the Buckhorn Mine which was opened on the mountain in the 1890s. The stampede for gold into the Yaak River Valley in 1894/1895 coincided with a rush into the surrounding mountains from the Idaho side, up the Moyie River to the mountain. For awhile, the two areas were considered as one and called the Moyie-Yahk Mining District. The mine and all the buildings was destroyed in the Wildfire of 1931.

BULL LAKE (Bull Lake Valley)

Called by that name since the 1870s. A few old c.1905 Blackfoot Timber Company maps called it Summit Lake.

BULL RIVER ROAD (Bull Lake Valley)

Became a county (Missoula) road in August of 1891. However, approximately 17 miles of very crude road up from the Clark Fork River had been pioneered by the Star Lumber Company (1885-1895) by 1890. The Great Northern R.R. completed the road in 1891, which it used to move supplies from Smead's Spur on the Northern Pacific R.R. to Lake City (Troy) where it was constructing a railroad grade down the Kootenai Valley. By 1893, the road was only occasionally used and deteriorate. For the next twenty years, the road was maintained and used by homesteaders, those living above Bull Lake traveling to Troy while those living below Bull Lake traveling to Noxon, leaving a small section in the middle un-maintained. The first automobile to traverse the whole route was in 1915 and took twelve hours.

BULL LAKE RANGER STATION (Bull Lake)

The Bull Lake Ranger Station was withdrawn from homesteading on February 27, 1909. In 1910 a cabin was built by the Forest Service on the site and used as an administration station. Today the site is known as Dorr Skeel Campgrounds.

BULL LAKE SCHOOL (Bull Lake Valley)

In c.1901 a log school house was built just south of Dry Creek. School was conducted in this building until 1921 when the school was moved south onto the Tallmadge (Edwina Tallmadge Stanley) Homestead. Classes were held in this school house until the school district consolidated with Troy in 1937.

BURNT CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Also known as "Burned Creek," was named by early prospectors in c.1895.

CABINET RANGER STATION (General Troy Area)

A U.S. Forest Service administrative site and headquarters for the Cabinet Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest. Began operations in 1908, located at the current site of the Troy Ranger Station on the Three River Ranger District. The Cabinet Ranger Station operated until 1932 when its named was changed to the Troy Ranger Station on the newly reorganized Troy Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest.

CALLAHAN CREEK (General Troy Area)

Named for a prospector named Timothy Callahan, an early 1890 prospector. The name was probably given to the creek by a Great Northern Railroad survey crew who passed through the area in 1890 and encountered Mr. Callahan at work on his placer claim at the mouth of the creek. However, between 1889 and 1890 creek was called Tillotson Creek.

CALLAHAN CREEK - NORTH FORK

(See Gordon Creek)

CALLAHAN CREEK ROAD (General Troy Area)

Forest Service Road #427 began as a trail in 1890, from the Kootenai River up Callahan Creek for approximately six and a half miles to the Big Eight Mine which was being developed. Ore from the Big Eight was transported on the backs of pack animals at an expensive cost. Finally a wagon road was started by the county (Flathead) in 1895, however, it was not completed between Troy and the Big Eight Mine and the Banner & Bangle Mines until 1911.

CAMP CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

In 1910, a logging camp was located somewhere on this creek, and has been known as Camp Creek ever since. Before that the creek was known Station Creek.

CARIBOU CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named after the Caribou that use to be seen there.

CARIBOU CAMPGROUNDS (Yaak River Valley)

A campground established on the banks of Caribou Creek by the Forest Service in 1963. A cabin was once located there, built by the U.S. Forest Service in c.1914, as a night stop for Upper Yaak residents on their way by horse and wagon to the towns of Gateway and Eureka.

CHINA MOUNTAIN, CHINA CREEK and CHINA LAKE (Kootenai Falls)

Named for Chinese miners who were engaged in placer and hard rock mining in the drainage. China Creek shows up as early as 1892 on some maps.

CLARK MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Alfred E. Clarke, an early 1914 homesteader in the Yaak Valley. He came from England and worked on the construction of the Canadian Pacific R.R. through British Columbia before coming into the Yaak Valley.

CLARK SCHOOL HOUSE (Yaak River Valley)

In 1921, a school building was constructed on the Alfred Clarke homestead for the students of the Sylvanite School District. Shortly after the school was constructed, it was found that the building was actually on government land, the Sylvanite Ranger Station. Clarke School House was used more as a reference to the school's location, but officially called the Sylvanite School House. Used as a school until 1926.

CLEAR CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

From the early 1890s up to 1912 was the name used for today's Blacktail Creek located in the east fork of the Yaak River.

COMMUNITY HALL (Yaak River Valley)

A log building built by Walter Smoot and local residents in 1925 for the expressed purpose as a community center. This building became a social hall and was heavily used by the local population for dances and parties. The building still stands and is still used as a community hall by Yaak residents.

COOL CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Harry Markley, Dick Ramy and two other prospectors by the names of Smith and Cole, on returning from the Wild Horse Gold Rush in British Columbia in 1865 camped along the Yahk River. While camped they reportedly discovered a deposit of coal along a nearby creek. As coal had no value at that time, nothing was done about the find. Later, many attempts would be made to relocate the coal. Early Forest Service maps shows this creek as Coal Creek, a name that was later changed to Cool Creek. The coal deposit has never been relocated.

CRUM CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Hiram G. "Hi" Crum, an early prospector and miner who moved into the lower Yaak

Valley in 1911. He also filed on a homesteader on Seventeen Mile Creek in 1911.

CRAWFORD CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for James T. Crawford, and early Sylvanite prospector. Crawford was born in Ohio in 1842, moved slowly westward until he reached the Yaak Valley in 1892. He prospected and worked his claims in the historic Yahk Mining District until he homestead 160 acres of land in the Pine Creek drainage in 1903. He continued prospecting right up to the time of his death in 1920. His body was sent east and he was buried at Siotoville, Ohio. Crawford Creek runs through the Sylvanite Work Center.

CROWELL CREEK and CROWELL MOUNTAIN (Bull Lake Valley)

These landmark names may have resulted in the corruption of the name Kroll. In 1893, Joseph Kroll lived south of what is now known as Crowell Creek. The creek is shown as Croll Creek on some early Kootenai National Forest Plat Maps.

CRYSTAL LAKE (Bull Lake Valley)

A name used by John Van Dyke and local people for a small pond of water located near Savage Lake.

CYCLONE CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named by early miners in about 1893. Even today, strong, cyclone type winds blow periodically in the drainage, leveling small areas of timber.

DEADMAN CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

An early 1887 name for Ross Creek. Prospectors found a burned out campsite along the creek and assumed that the owner was dead. For awhile, the stream was called Lightning creek, then later the name was changed to Ross Creek.

DEADMAN'S CURVE (Yaak River Valley)

A local name given to the 23 mile corner on the Yaak River Road after people were killed in automobile accidents on this once sharp curve in the road. In 1992, a new road was located and bypassed the old corner. Also known as Duplus Curve.

DEEP CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

A 1917 name for Prospect Creek located in the Arbo Creek Drainage of the lower Yaak River Valley.

DEVIL'S WASHBOARD (Yaak River Valley)

A local name for the rock formation next to the Yaak River Road just south of the 19 mile marker on the west side of the road. This name was also used around the turn of the century for what is now called the Stonechest Grade.

DIRTY SHAME SALOON (Yaak River Valley)

First established in a metal hut just outside the main gate of the Yaak Air Force Base in 1951. A log building was later built along the Yaak River Road which burned down. The current building was built from a rumored "five small structures jammed together" following the fire.

DOOLEY MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Lafayette Dooley, a 1917 prospector who moved into the Sylvanite area in 1916. In 1919 he filed on a homestead which was patented to him. The land eventually became the property of the Leighty Brothers who constructed a sawmill on the land in 1950s.

DOONAN PEAK (Bull Lake Valley)

Named for William F. "Duffy" Doonan an early Troy merchant. Duffy was born in Ontario, Canada in 1865. Moved with parents to Michigan where he was raised. He was a railroad master mechanic (1887-1909) leaving the Great Northern R.R. in Troy to enter the business world. In 1914 he purchased the old Monio Hotel in Troy, changing its name to the Doonan Hotel. Built the Doonan Hotel Annex in 1917 and part owner of a local pharmacy in 1919. Died following surgery in 1930.

DORR SKEELS CAMPGROUNDS (Bull Lake)

A small piece of ground which was withdrawn from homesteading in 1909 became the site of the Bull Lake Ranger Station. Became a Forest Service Campgrounds in 1963 and named after the first Kootenai National Forest Supervisor.

DRIFT CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

What is now known as Drift Creek was called Spruce Creek in 1917. Drift Creek, in 1917, was shown as entering Spruce Lake on its western shore.

DUPLUS CURVE

A name used to describe the 23 mile corner on the Yaak River Road, later known as Deadman's Curve. Named for Ed Duplus who lived in a cabin nearby, in the 1930s.

DUTCH CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for the Herbst Brothers, Erdman & Reinholdt who homesteaded in the Lake Rene area in 1919.

EAST SIDE ROAD (Yaak River Valley)

The name now used for the old Yakt to Sylvanite Road (F. S. Road #176) which was begun in the 1890s but not finished until around 1915/1916. It joined the Troy to Sylvanite Wagon Road (now F. S. Road # 2394) about three miles north of Kilbrennan Lake, in the Yaak Drainage.

EATON CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

An early 1893 name for what is now Copper Creek. Possibly named for W.W. Eaton, a prospector, who filed on a number of claims in the Lake Creek area between 1889 and 1891 and rumored to have once had a cabin on the creek.

EVERGREEN PLACER (Yaak River Valley)

A 60 acre patented placer claim on the Yaak River, discovered in 1896. Its place in history began when the gold town of Sylvanite (1896-1910) was established on the claim.

FALL CREEK (Bull Lake Valley - Savage Lake)

Named for the “big falls” on the creek above Savage Lake in 1887.

FALLS CREEK (Kootenai Falls)

An early 1900 to 1924 name for Koot Creek.

FALL CREEK SCHOOL (Bull Lake Valley - Schoolhouse Lake)

A school house was built on the bank of a small lake which now is called School House Lake in 1905. Used as a school until the school district consolidated with Troy in 1937.

FAST CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Possibly named for Frank L. Fast who homesteaded, just over Dodge Summit, in the West Kootenai area in 1900.

FERREL CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for an old placer prospector by the name of Ferrel. He built the first cabin in the old Snipetown mining camp in c.1890.

FEDERAL BUILDING (Yaak River Valley)

The name applied to a small log cabin located on the county road at the East Fork of the Yaak bridge. Built in the 1920s by Gus Shultz. Originally had a wood stove in it and served as a meeting place for the up river folks while waiting for the mail to be delivered. It also served for a short period as a poling place during election years. The cabin has never been used as a residence.

FEEDER CREEK (Yaak River Valley - Kilbrennan Lake)

The name for the creek which drains or “feeds” into Kilbrennan Lake but was known as Lake Creek in 1917.

FELIX CREEK (Bull Lake Valley - Savage Lake Area)

Found on an old 1897 Montana map. Probably named Felix Tully, a prospector, who moved into the area in 1887.

FIX CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Edison Fix, a homesteader in the South Fork of the Yaak in 1914. He worked many years for the Forest Service.

FOURTH OF JULY CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Independence Day in 1895 by early miners in the Yahk Mining District. The creek once ran through the gold town of Sylvanite, Montana. First shows up in print in August, 1895 in the Kootenai Herald (Bonners Ferry, Idaho).

FREEMAN RIDGE (Bull Lake Valley - Lake Creek)

Named for James Freeman who moved into the area in 1888. He was an early prospector and homesteader on Falls Creek. He received his patent to his homestead in 1896. Sold out shortly afterwards and moved down to the mouth of the Bull River.

FRENCHMAN'S MEADOW and FRENCHMAN'S FLAT (Yaak River Valley)

An early name for the meadow and pasture which is located across the county road at the old Upper Ford Ranger Station. A log trappers cabin once existed in the meadow which the Forest Service eventually used in 1908 as a smoke chasers cabin. So called because a Frenchman by the name of Martell was the trapper who built the cabin, rumored to have been the first structure built in the upper Yaak Valley.

FRIDAY HILL (Yaak River Valley)

Named for the day of the week in which gold was first discovered in 1895 on the mountain. This discovery began a gold rush into the Yaak Valley which resulted in the mining town of Sylvanite, Montana (1896-1910).

FRY'S CABIN (Yaak River Valley)

Rumored to have been the first cabin built in the Yaak Valley. Built as a trapper's cabin by Martin Fry and his son in 1887. The cabin was built on the banks of the Yaak River in the large meadow south of the Hellroaring Saloon, or south of the 19 mile marker on the Yaak Road. Their trap line extended from the cabin northward to the East Fork of the Yaak River.

FLORENCE CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

A name used in 1917 for Kilbrennan Creek.

LAKE FLORENCE (Yaak River Valley)

Named by Sam Billings, Ranger at Sylvanite (1929-1930), for his fiancée, later his wife Florence Sturgeon.

FOWLER CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for George Fowler, a homesteader on the South Fork of the Yaak River in 1915.

FLATBOW RIVER (Kootenai River)

An early name (c.1808) for the Kootenai River. The name occasionally shows up on some early maps. Probably named from a reported band of "Flat Bow Indians?" which were camped along the river near present day Bonners Ferry.

GOLD LAKE and GOLD CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Placer gold was found in the creek, which drained from a small lake located just inside the United States/Canadian border. Name shows up as early as 1896 on old maps.

GOLDFLINT MINE (Yaak River Valley)

A patented gold claim located above the old town of Sylvanite, discovered in 1896. In 1898, the Goldflint Mining Company consolidated with the Keystone Mining Company - becoming the Consolidated Keystone Mining Company.

GORDON CREEK (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

Named in or about 1896 for an old prospector John H. Gordon. Gordon Creek was also called the North Fork of Callahan Creek around the turn of the century.

GORDON MOUNTAIN (Bull Lake Valley)

Probably named for Major S. James “Jim” Gordon, early Bull Lake promoter and developer in about 1916. Lived just north of the lake at his Leaning Pine Ranch.

GRAMBAUER MOUNTAIN (Bull Lake Valley - Cabinets)

Named for William Grambauer, an old prospector, around 1900.

GRANITE CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

A name sometimes used for Dry Creek. Found on 1914 and 1915 Kootenai National Forest maps.

GREAT NORTHERN LODGE CLAIM (Yaak River Valley)

A patented gold claim, discovered in 1897, and located above the old town of Sylvanite.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY

The Great Northern constructed a railroad grade through Lincoln County in 1891, with trains running by 1892. The town of Troy was a freight division point on the line from 1892 to 1926.

GREIG SCHOOL HOUSE (Yaak River Valley)

In 1910, Robert Greig homesteaded the land at the Seventeen Mile Creek Bridge. In 1927, the Sylvanite School was moved into a log buildings constructed on the Greig homestead. The school operated at this location until the 1950s when the school was moved to its current location. The old school building remains and was remodeled as a residence in 1999.

GRIZZLY POINT and GRIZZLY CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named after the many grizzly bears seen in the area.

GROUSE CREEK (Bull Lake Valley - Keeler Creek)

An early 1917 name used for the North Fork of Keeler Creek.

GROUSE MOUNTAIN (Bull Lake Valley)

Named by early prospectors for the many Blue Grouse found there. Early prospecting on the mountain dates back to the late 1880s.

GRUBSTAKE MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

Named by Joe Pierce. Fires provided jobs for Yaak residents during the summer months, providing their \$50 grubstake which was needed to get them through the winter. Local legend has it that during hard times, fires would “somehow” start on the mountain and the Forest Service would hire local men to put them out, providing them with a grubstake for the coming winter.

GRUSH GULCH (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Eugene “Gene” R. Grush, a homesteader, miner and Forest Service employee for 40 years. Gene came into the Yaak in 1910 to fight the fire which destroyed the town of Sylvanite.

As Gene often said, “liked it and stayed.”

GUS CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Gus Witte, a homesteader in 1912. Gus was a prospector and miner who eventually sold out and moved to richer ground in Nevada.

HALAHAR CREEK

(see Bob Creek)

HALE CREEK (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

Named after Louis Hale a turn of the century prospector who filed a homestead application in Callahan Creek in 1911.

HALF WAY HOUSE (Bull Lake)

The first half way house, which was called “The 25 Mile House,” was built on the Great Northern Railway Tote Road of 1891 by O. F. Payne. The combination saloon, eating and boarding house was located on Payne Creek. The current Half Way House was built in 1936 by Harry Tallmadge as a small store, later expanded to accommodate a bar in 1946.

HALVERSON CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

Named for Andrew “Andy” Halverson the first section foreman on the Great Northern R.R. in Troy in 1892. In 1901 he settled on 150 acres of land which he filed on in 1907. He later worked out of Troy with the Forest Service.

HARTMAN CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Charlie Hartman, a homesteader in the South Fork in 1910.

HAUGAN CREEK (Bull Lake Valley - Keeler Creek)

A now unnamed intermittent creek located in Section 10, T30N, R34W. which drains into the North Fork of Keeler Creek. Named for E. J. Haugan, one of the owners in the Grouse Mountain Mining Company who operated a mill in the drainage in 1937.

HAYSTACK MOUNTAIN (Bull Lake Valley - Iron Creek)

A name used in the 1920s for a now unnamed mountain located in Section 27, T31N, R34W. Used to describe the location of the Federal Silver Mine later called the American Eagle Mine.

HERYAKAHA CREEK (Bull Lake Valley - Lake Creek)

An early Kootenai Indian name for Lake Creek. First shown by that name on 1874 map of the Washington and Idaho Territory.

MOUNT HENRY and MOUNT HENRY LAKE (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Henry Wegner, an early 1906 homesteader in the East Fork of the Yaak River His homestead is now known as Lake Okaga.

HELMER LAKE (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Simon Helmer a homesteader in 1915. He died in 1925 and is buried close to his old

house and near the lake. The lake was later renamed Vinal Lake.

HENSLEY HILL and HENSLEY CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Judge Jim Hensley, a homesteader in 1907. Hensley Hill once supported a temporary F. S. lookout, later taken over by the U.S. Air Force as a part of the Yaak Air Force Base.

HIATT CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

Named for Roy Hiatt a homesteader on Dry Creek in 1902, and lookout on Keeler Mountain for the Forest Service.

HOSKIN LAKE (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Billy Hoskin in 1913, an early homesteader, who discovered the lakes.

HUBBARD CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Jim Hubbard, an early trapper in the East Fork of the Yaak River, who died in 1942 at the age of 95. Reported to have constructed over 20 line cabins in the Upper Yaak over the years that he trapped.

HUDSON CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Charlie Hudson in 1918. Charlie Hudson was an early 1917 trapper and homesteader in the East Fork of the Yaak River.

INDEPENDENCE MTN. and INDEPENDENCE CK. (Yaak River Valley)

Named by early miners at Sylvanite in or around 1895.

IRON CREEK (Bull Lake Valley - Iron Creek)

A name it has gone by since the 1890s. Named for the surface deposits which left an orange residue in the creek bed.

IRON MOUNTAIN (Bull Lake Valley - Iron Creek)

An early turn of the century to about 1917 name for Copper Mountain.

JOHNSON PRAIRIE (Yaak River Valley)

An old turn of the century name for the meadow area located on the south side of the Yaak River, off the South Fork Road, behind the Yaak Mercantile.

JOHNSON ROCK (Yaak River Valley)

A local name given to the large rock outcrop located just west of the Pete Creek Campgrounds, on the north side of the Yaak River. A man named Johnson was found dead along the old Yaak River Trail in 1918 at this outcrop by Forest Service packer. His body was taken across the river and buried.

JULY CREEK (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

Located in the Callahan Creek drainage, was originally named in 1890 as Fourth of July Creek by prospectors.

KEELER CREEK and KEELER MEADOWS (Yaak River Valley)

An early name for Windy Creek, in the Yaak Valley, and the grassy meadows around Lake Okaga. Named for Bill Keeler who prospected in the area between 1876 and the mid-1880s.

KEELER CREEK and KEELER MOUNTAIN (Bull Lake Valley)

Named for an early crusty prospector, William "Bill" Keeler in 1891. Keeler was an original "California 49er" who moved north during the Wildhorse Gold Rush in 1864. Later settled in the Troy area, prospecting heavily on Grouse Mountain from 1888 until 1898 until when he moved north once again to Alaska and the Klondike Gold Rush of '98. Reportedly hung the following year for an some infraction of the law in Alaska.

KEELER CREEK, WEST FORK (Bull Lake Valley)

Was known as the North Fork of Keeler Creek on 1917 Forest Service maps.

KEELER CREEK, NORTH FORK (Bull Lake Valley)

Was known as Grouse Creek in 1917.

KELSEY CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Sarah Kelsey in 1911, an early homesteader.

KETRIDGE CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

An early name for Shine Creek. Named for J.C. KetrIDGE, an early 1908-1915 Forest Service surveyor. Shown on 1917 Forest Service survey maps.

KETTLE SPRINGS (Yaak River Valley)

Hallie Helmer named the springs, just off the Mt. Henry trail on the south side of the mountain. Named after an old kettle that was found hanging in a tree above the springs.

KEYSTONE MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

When gold had been discovered in 1895, it was assumed that the discovery would be a keystone for the local mining industry.

KEYSTONE LODE CLAIM (Yaak River Valley)

A patented gold claim located above the old town of Sylvanite in 1896. In 1989 the Keystone Mining Company consolidated with the Goldflint Mining Company forming the Consolidated Keystone Mining Company.

KILBRENNAN CAMP GROUNDS (Yaak River Valley-Kilbrennan Lake)

Withdrawn from homesteading on March 7, 1908 by the Kootenai National Forest. A small log cabin/barn, probably built in the 1890s, was used by the Forest Service for many years as a tool cache. Later a campground was built on the site. The road through Kilbrennan Camp Grounds was built in 1896 and known as the Troy-Sylvanite Wagon Road.

KILBRENNAN LAKE (Yaak River Valley - Kilbrennan Lake)

"Was so named, so old timers say, after the lake of the same name in Scotland. It was from the

shore of Lake Kilbrennan that Mrs. Barrie Walker, formerly of the National Hotel in Kalispell, came to the west before the railroad came, and it was in honor of her home in Scotland, that her western friends named that lake.” (The Troy Ranger, June 21, 1934)

KOO KOO CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named by Northern Pacific Surveyors who were lost in the 1880s while working.

KOOT CREEK (Kootenai Falls)

Located at the Kootenai Falls, originally called Box Car Creek, later Falls Creek and finally Koot Creek in about 1924.

KOOTENAI RIVER

Named for the Kootenai Indian Tribe who lived along its shores. Between c.1862 and c.1890 spelled Kootenay and generally spelled Kootenai after 1891. Also known as Flatbow River and McGillveray's River.

KOOTENAI SIDING (Kootenai Falls)

A small settlement developed along a side track of the Great Northern Railroad at Kootenai Falls in 1892. The Kootenai Falls Post Office was commissioned (1896-1899) but one was never opened. The settlement housed a section crew, with a railroad boarding house, depot, water tower, a few small houses and a school.

LAFOE MOUNTAIN (Bull Lake Valley)

Named for Lewis LaFoe, an early 1913 Lake Creek homesteader .

LAKE CITY (Troy, Montana)

(1891-1893) A settlement at the mouth of Lake Creek and located on the Spokane & Kootenai Placer Claim, also called Lake Creek City. A boom town when the construction crews building the Great Northern R.R. settled in the town. When the crews moved on, the town was sold and renamed Troy. The end came when the G.N.R.R. built a division point a mile to the west establishing a new town of West Troy.

LAKE CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

Named because it drains out of Bull Lake. Also known as Heryakaha Creek by the Kootenai Indians.

LAKE CREEK (Yaak River Valley - Kilbrennan Lake)

A 1917 name for Feeder Creek.

LAKE CREEK SCHOOL HOUSE (Bull Lake Valley)

The Lake Creek School was built in c.1911 as a part of the Fall Creek School District. It was suppose to have been located near the Lake Creek and Chase Cut Off Road junction. However, rumors persist that the school was built in the wrong location and that the building later became the Grange Hall. The school operated until about c.1920.

LANG CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named by Fritz Lang, an early miner at Sylvanite, for his son George. George Lang was an early homesteader and worked for 25 years as a lookout on Mt. Henry.

LAP CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named by Les Vinal for two old trappers by the names of Law and Plomert. The first two letters in Law (La), and the first letter from Plomert (P) were taken to name the creek.

LAST CHANCE ADMINISTRATION SITE (Yaak River Valley)

From 1908 thru 1950's an area south of the picnic area in the Yaak River Campgrounds near the mouth of the Yaak River, was considered for future Forest Service development as an administrative site. The Last Chance Ranger Station was proposed and surveyed but was never built.

LEMLEYBURG CAMP (Yaak River Valley)

When gold was discovered in the Yaak Valley on Friday Hill in 1894, the boom tent camp that became established at the mouth of Fourth of July Creek was named Lemleyburg. The camp was named for Bill Lemley and Peter Burg who discovered the gold. The name was short lived however, as the camp began constructing log homes and businesses, and the growing town changed the name to Sylvanite.

LENIA (Kootenai River - State Line)

Generally, the name of the area across the Kootenai River from Leonia.

LEONIA and LEONIA SIDING (Kootenai River - State Line)

A Great Northern railroad siding located at the mouth of Boulder Creek in Idaho in 1892. A small settlement developed at the siding in 1894. The size of the settlement grew when it became a rail head for supplies and food for the mining town of Sylvanite. Flooding of the Boulder Creek in 1897 destroyed the settlement and the Great Northern moved the siding to its present location on the Montana - Idaho state line. Rumors say that the old settlement was nothing more than a memory by the late 1940s. Reportedly named for a camp follower in 1892.

LICK MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

Named by a survey party for the many deer licks in the area.

LIGHTNING CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

This was an 1890 name for what is known today as Ross Creek. For a short time in 1887-1888 it was known as Deadman Creek.

LIME BUTTE (Bull Lake Valley - Keeler Creek)

Named after a lime deposit located on this small butte.

LIME CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for a lime formation found in the creek.

LONG MEADOW ADMINISTRATION SITE (Yaak River Valley)

Withdrawn from homesteading by the Kootenai National Forest on February 14, 1913, served as a tent camp by the Forest Service during the summer to house fire fighters. Functioned as a seasonal guard station. Now the site of the Whitetail Campgrounds.

LOWER FORD (Yaak River Valley)

Named by homesteaders to distinguish between two fords across the Yaak River (Upper and Lower Fords). This crossing is located across the Yaak River just east of the Yaak Community Hall near the mouth of Vinal Creek. The original road connecting the two fords was once located on the eastern bank of the Yaak River.

LUCKY GULCH and LUCKY POINT (Yaak River Valley)

Named by J. K. "Pink" Dwinille in 1929. He was lucky in keeping a bad fire in control there.

LYNX CREEK (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

In 1917, Jill Creek up the North Fork of Callahan Creek was known as Lynx Creek.

LYNX CREEK (General Troy Area - O'Brien Creek)

Named for the Canadian Lynx which were often seen and trapped in the drainage, which drains into O'Brien Creek.

MARMOT MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

Massive areas of talus rock outcrops on the sides and top of the mountain inhabited by many Hoary Marmots.

MAX CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for an early East Fork settler, Jim McGary in 1930.

MEADOW CREEK (Bull Lake Valley - Keeler Creek)

A turn of the century name for the creek which drained out of Grouse Lake.

MEEKS CREEK (Kootenai River - State Line)

Now an unnamed creek, located approximately 1 mile upstream from Leonia on the south side of the Kootenai River (T33N, R34W, Section 29). Also known as Bellyache Draw by the Kootenai Indians after a few members of the tribe died of a stomach sickness in the general area. Interestingly enough, Meeks Creek draws its name from Henry Meeks, who's three sons were accidentally poisoned and died from contaminated food, and were buried in unmarked graves at the Boulder City Cemetery. The two incidents may be one in the same and suggests that the Meeks family may have been Kootenai Indians.

McCONNELL MOUNTAIN (Bull Lake Valley - Iron Creek)

Named for Albert C. McConnell in 1905, an early homesteader at the base of the mountain.

McCORMICK CREEK (Kootenai River - Leonia)

The name once used for a creek that drains into the Kootenai River near Leonia, now called Rock Creek.

McGILLVERAY'S RIVER (Kootenai River)

An early name (c.1808 to c.1860) for the Kootenai River. Named for William McGillivary, the head of the North West Company.

MOUNT McGINTY (General Troy Area - Alvord Lake)

A now unnamed small mountain near the center of Section 31, T32N, R33W, and about a half mile east of Alvord Lake. Name found in local newspapers in 1916.

MILNOR LAKE (Bull Lake Valley)

Named in 1905, for William Milnor, an early 1890s settler who homesteaded the land around the lake. At the time Milnor settled on the land, the lake was called Baker Lake.

MOUCHE LAKE (Yaak River Valley)

An early name for Vinal lake, rumored to mean deer in Kootenai Indian language.

MURPHY MOUNTAIN and MURPHY GREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Patrick Murphy who died in a hunting accident in 1896. Murphy Creek is shown on some 1917 Plat Maps and Murphy Gulch is shown on a c.1928 Kootenai National Forest map. It is the only major drainage shown in Section 18, T33N, R33W which drains into the Yaak River and now unnamed. Murphy was buried next to the old Leonia-Sylvanite Trail where it crossed Murphy Creek which is now under the Yaak River Road, Highway 508.

MYRTLE LODGE CLAIM (Yaak River Valley)

A patented claim located north of Crawford Creek, discovered in 1895.

NASH FLAT (Yaak River Valley)

Local name for a section of flat ground located 1/2 mile east of Boyd Cemetery. Named for a Anna Nash a homesteader who had a homestead there in 1915.

NEWTON MOUNTAIN and NEWTON GULCH (Yaak River Valley)

Named for E.W. Newton, a homesteader at the base of the mountain. Named in 1897 when a proposed road from Bonners Ferry to Sylvanite was to go through his property. The road was never built but the Bonners Ferry-Moyie-Sylvanite Trail had been built over the mountain in 1893.

NOGGLE CREEK (Bull Lake)

Name found on an early 1897 Montana Map.

NORTHWEST PEAK (Yaak River Valley)

A prominent and the highest peak in northwestern corner of Montana. A lookout was built in 1929 which was a prototype for the L-4 tower.

OBERMAYER MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Anton Obermayer who was killed by a falling snag in the Fire of 1931. Formerly called Mt. Shagnasty.

O'BRIEN CREEK (General Troy Area)

Possibly named for William O'Brien and early 1891 prospector and Troy townsite developer in 1892.

OLSON ADMINISTRATIVE SITE (Yaak River Valley)

Located just south of the Yaak River Road at the 29 mile marker, was withdrawn from homesteading on March 16, 1908. Used by the Forest Service between 1910 and 1930s for seasonal fire fighters and homestead survey crews. Originally consisted of a log cabin, tool cache and a tent camp.

OLSON CABIN (Yaak River Valley)

A name given to the trail maintenance log cabin located approximately 6 1/2 miles up the old Pete Creek Trail.

OLSON LOOKOUT (Yaak River Valley)

A name used for a temporary lookout established on the top of Hensley Hill. A man from the Olson Administration Site would walk up to the top of Hensley Hill following a lightning storm and look around for fires.

OLSON MEADOWS (Yaak River Valley)

The old name for the meadow located about 6 1/2 miles up Pete Creek, or approximately a half mile north of the Beetle Creek Road.

OTIS CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

A tributary of the Yaak River, named for Walter Otis, a Kootenai National Forest clerk in 1912. Before that time, the creek was often referred to as Rabbit Creek.

OWENS CANYON (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

In the late 1880s the canyon in which the Big Eight Mine is located on Callahan Creek was known as Owens Canyon, named for Calvin Owens, a prospector.

PAISLEY CAMP (Yaak River Valley)

A name for an early 1895-1898 mining tent camp located at the mouth of Wampoo Creek on the Yaak River. Prospectors ranged along the south part of Abe Lincoln Mountain, Tepee Mountain as well as the Arbo Creek drainage. The camp was later homesteaded by Harry Higgins in the late 1890s.

PAISLEY HOUSE (Yaak River Valley)

The name for a log building used as a stage stop between Leonia and Sylvanite between 1896 and 1900. Located at the mouth of Wampoo Creek and in the early mining camp known as Paisley. Higgins added a framed room onto the old cabin and later the building became known as the Buckhorn Lodge. The building burned in the spring of 1996.

PATCH MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

A local name given to a small Canadian mountain that can be seen by looking up the North Fork of the Yaak. The square and rectangular patches are sections of the mountain scrapped down to rock by glaciers. The Canadian name for the mountain is “Gilnochie.”

PAYNE CREEK (Bull Lake)

Named for O. F. Payne who settled on the creek in c.1891. For a short period of time, around 1917, this creek was also known as Tallmadge Creek.

PEET CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

An early (1912) spelling for what is known as Pete Creek today. The current spelling appeared on the 1917 and later maps.

PEET CREEK MEADOWS (Yaak River Valley)

This spelling found on early Kootenai National Forest Maps which persisted well into the 1920s before the spelling was changed to Pete Creek Meadows.

PETE CK. CAMPGROUNDS (Yaak River Valley)

Constructed by the Forest Service in 1964 at the site of a Yaak River log drive camp used in the 1910s and 1920s.

PINE CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named by early prospectors in 1890 who were camped at Snipetown.

PINE CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

In 1894, it was the name for a creek now known as Porcupine Creek.

PINK MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

Probably named for J. K. “Pink” Dwinille, an early Forest Service Ranger in 1914.

PLUNKETT CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

The name of a small unnamed intermittent stream course which drains the southeastern slope of Copper Mountain. Named for Thomas Plunkett, an early 1892 homesteader.

PORCUPINE CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

This creek was originally named Pine Creek in 1894.

POVERTY FLAT (Yaak River Valley)

An early 1913 name for the area now known as Yaak, Montana, or where the Yaak Mercantile and Dirty Shame are now located.

PREACHER MOUNTAIN (General Troy Area)

On November 6, 1896, Rev. Alexis Beck, a Troy preacher, went hunting in the vicinity of this mountain, and was never heard from again. Two years later, an old prospector Bill Keeler said that he had found his remains. He refused to disclose the body’s location unless he could get a \$200 reward. The reward was never paid and the body was never recovered. This mountain has been known as Preacher Mountain ever since.

PROSPECT CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Located in Arbo Creek Drainage was known as Deep Creek in 1917.

RABBIT CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

This name shows up occasionally on c.1917 Kootenai National Forest Plat Maps but the creek is known as Otis Creek today.

RAT CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named by a General Land Office Survey party in 1932.

RAYMOND CREEK (Kootenai River - Star Creek)

Named for Bill Raymond in 1904, an early miner and settler.

RAUSCH POINT (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Charlie Rausch in 1918, an early homesteader.

RED CEDAR CREEK (Bull Lake Valley - Iron Creek)

An early c.1917 name for the North Fork of Iron Creek.

RED TOP CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named by miners in 1895. A small mining tent camp known as Williamsburg Camp was located along this creek near its mouth in 1895. Prospectors from this camp sought their riches from the slopes of Red Top Mountain.

RED TOP MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

Red Top grass grows on the summit. In the spring the mountain top looks red from a distance. It first showed up in print in September 1895 in the Kootenai Herald (Bonners Ferry).

RED TOP CAMPGROUNDS (Yaak River Valley)

A Forest Service campgrounds established in 1959.

ROBINSON MOUNTAIN and ROBINSON CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Henry Robinson in 1909, an early East Fork of the Yaak River trapper.

ROBINSON CREEK ADMINISTRATION SITE (Yaak River Valley)

Located at Robinson Creek and the Yaak River Road. Used by the Forest Service between 1910 and 1930s. Originally consisted of a small log cabin used as a fire tool cache.

ROCK CREEK (Kootenai River - Leonia)

A creek which drains into the Kootenai River near Leonia, was originally named McCormick Creek which persisted until the 1920s, when the name was changed.

ROCK LAKE (Bull Lake Valley - Shannon Flat)

An early 1893 name for Shannon Lake.

ROCK CANDY MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

Named by Sam Billings in 1929, because the formation at the top reminded him of a chunk of rock candy.

RODERICK MOUNTAIN and RODERICK BUTTE (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Mattie Roderick, one of the first settlers to homestead in the Upper Yaak River Valley, in 1901. Mattie's husband, Al Roderick constructed one of the first buildings, a saloon, in Libby when the town moved from Old Town Libby.

ROSS CREEK and ROSS POINT (Bull Lake)

Named in 1930 for the Ross Brothers, John and A. C. Ross. The brothers were prospectors and miners who worked a number of claims on Ross Creek since 1893. Prior to 1930, this creek was known as Lightning Creek.

RUBY CREEK (General Troy Area)

Named for Al Ruby an early 1892 homesteader.

RUBY ADMINISTRATION SITE (General Troy Area - Ruby Creek)

The Ruby Creek Forest Service Administration site was withdrawn on June 8, 1908 and contained 69 acres (T32N, R34W, S28, NE1/4 of NE1/4 and Lots 3 & 4). The withdrawal was revoked in 1911.

SADDLE CREEK and SADDLE MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

The top of the mountain is in the shape of a saddle.

SAVAGE LAKE (Bull Lake Valley)

Named for William Savage an 1897 homesteader who settled on its northern shore. Between 1892 and 1897 was known as Van Dyke Lake.

SCHOOL HOUSE LAKE (Bull Lake Valley)

So named as the Fall Creek School House (1905-1937) was once located the shore line of the lake. Sometimes called, Fall Creek School House Lake.

SCREW CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named in 1914 for Elmer "Screw" Clay, who moved into the Yaak in 1910.

SEARS FLAT (General Troy Area - Kootenai River)

Name for a large flat bench on the north side of the Kootenai River across from the Yakt Railroad Siding. At one time, the original Yakt-Sylvanite Wagon Road passed through this flat. This old part of the road was later abandoned in favor of the East Side Road.

SEARS ROAD (Yaak River Valley)

Another name for the Yakt-Sylvanite Wagon Road which was begun in 1896 and not completed until c.1915. The road is shown on early 1917 Forest Service maps.

SEARS MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley - Kilbrennan Lake)

An early 1910-1920s name for a small butte (3235') located north of Kilbrennan Lake in the northwest corner of Section 20, T33N, R34W.

SEVENTEEN MILE CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

At the time thought to be 17 miles from the Yaak River to downtown Libby through this drainage. Named around 1894.

SEVENTEEN MILE SCHOOL HOUSE (Yaak River Valley)

Located on the James Barron Homestead, and sometimes referred to as the Barron School House. Actually it was the Sylvanite School House which was located on the Barron Homestead because the Barron children were its only pupils.

SHAGNASTY MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

Original name for Obermayer Mountain, the name was changed in 1931.

SHANNON LAKE and SHANNON FLATS (Bull Lake Valley)

Named for Emmett Shannon, an early 1920s homesteader.

SHEEPHERDER MTN. and SHEEPHERDER CK. (Yaak River Valley)

In the 1920s and 1930s was used as a part of a domestic sheep summer range which included the Seventeen Mile Creek drainage and the area burned over in the 1910 fire.

SKINNER LAKE (General Troy Area - O'Brien Creek)

A man made lake, named for William Skinner the Kilbrennan Lake homesteader, who constructed the lake to be used as a fish hatchery. However, he was unable to control the water level and the lake was never used as a hatchery.

SLEE LAKE (General Troy Area)

Named for homesteader R. L. Slee in 1917.

SLIM CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Romeo Garrison in 1914, an early homesteader and trapper.

SMALL CREEK (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

Shown on a 1917 map but was previously known as Bob Creek.

SMOOT CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Walt Smoot in 1911, early homesteader.

SNIPETOWN CAMP (Yaak River Valley)

A name given to a small mining tent camp that developed on the Idaho Placer Claim of 1891. It was an area located in the Yaak River Canyon below the Stonechest Grade north to Ferrel Creek. First settlement in the Yaak Valley. The camp once held a population of between 25 and 30 miners. Rumored to have once supported a small general store constructed out of logs. The name refers to "Sniping" or working a mineral claim without first filing on it. The camp was

active between 1890 and 1895.

SNOW STORM MINE (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

Previously the Banner and Bangle Lode (also known as the B & B) claims filed on in 1893. In 1916 the Banner and Bangle Mining Company sold the holdings to the Consolidated Snow Storm Mining Company. Actively mined between 1916 and 1927, resulting in over 400,000 tons of ore being removed from the seven adits. Generally known as the Snowstorm Mine after 1917.

SOLO JOE CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named for a hermit, "Solo Joe" Perrault, who lived at the mouth of the creek for 25 years. He was a placer miner who died in 1929. Solo Joe was one of Troy's first barbers, working the trade there in 1894 and 1895.

SOUTH FORK SCHOOL (Yaak River Valley)

Built in 1919 on the Dewey Homestead and sometimes referred to as the Dewey School, was used until the current Yaak School building was constructed. Functioned as a school for half of the school year and half of the year, school was conducted in the Zimmerman School up river.

SPEED ISLAND (Yaak River Valley)

An island of approximately 15 acres located in the Yaak River about 1/2 mile below the East Fork junction. Named for Ray Speed in 1915, an early homesteader.

SPRUCE CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

In 1917, what is today called Drift Creek, was called Spruce Creek which drained into the southern end of Spruce Lake.

STANLEY PEAK and STANLEY CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

Named for Foster Stanley, who was reported to be the first man to bring his family into the railroad town of Lake City in 1891. Homesteaded on the northern shore of Bull Lake in 1892, filing on the land in 1900.

STAR CREEK (Across from the Yaak River Campgrounds)

Named by early Boulder Creek prospectors in 1891.

STATION CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

An early name used for today's Camp Creek. This name may suggest that an early Great Northern Railroad horse feeding station of 1891-1892, may have been located along this creek. In 1891 and 1892, it took five days to transport supplies from Smead's Landing on the Clark Fork River to the railroad construction camp at Lake City. Feeding stations were set up at one day intervals to accommodate caring for the horse teams, wagons and men who drove them. A road petition of 1900 makes reference to an area nearby as the "Old Stage Ranch."

STONECHEST GRADE (Yaak River Valley)

Named for James Stonechest, a stage and freight wagon driver in the 1890s, on the old Leonia-Sylvanite Wagon Road. Named applied to a massive rock outcrop which is visible today as you drive up the Yaak Valley, about a mile past the Pine Creek Road. In the 1890s, the road dropped

down before reaching this outcrop, switch backing on a steep slope a couple of times before leveling out on a flat bench above the Yaak River, a trip not to be taken by the faint of heart. Also known as the Devil's Washborad.

STRATON POINT (Yaak River Valley)

A 1940s/1950s name for the point of land on the north side of the Yaak River about a mile upstream from the mouth of the South Fork of the Yaak River. Named for Straton family who purchased H. E. S. 402 in 1944.

STUDEBAKER DRAW (O'Brien Creek))

Named after an abandoned Studebaker automobile found at the mouth of Larmie Creek in 1930.

SUMMIT LAKE (Bull Lake)

(see Bull Lake)

SURPRISE MINING DISTRICT (Yaak River Valley)

A mining district formed in 1890 that included the Yaak River Canyon or from the Kootenai River up to the Yaak Falls. The boundaries like most early mining districts, was fluid and overlapped other unorganized districts. This district also included claims up Boulder Creek on the Montana/Idaho State Line..

SWANSON CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

Named for Frank Swanson, an 1894 homesteader. Frank Swanson was born in 1863 in Iowa. Spent his early years in Kansas moving to Missoula in the 1880s, and Kalispell in 1890. Went to work for the Great Northern Railroad moving with the company to Troy in about 1893. Left the Great Northern and took up land where he worked as a rancher until his death in 1955.

SWEASEY CREEK (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

Named for Alfred Swesey an early 1890s prospector and later partner with George Moore in a freighting business in Troy.

SYLVANITE (Yaak River Valley)

The name of the gold mining town that developed in 1896 and 1897. Originally the miners believed that they had discovered Sylvanite, a rich silver/gold ore. When it turned out not to be Sylvanite, it was too late, the name of the town stuck. Sylvanite grew to 500-600 inhabitants in 1897, dwindling down to just a handful by 1898 when the mines closed. The town sat idle until 1910 when the mines reopened however before much work could be done, it was totally destroyed in the Wildfire of 1910. Today it represents the "down valley" residents. The Sylvanite post office was commissioned in 1896 and used until 1903. It was re-commissioned in 1910 and used until 1914.

SYLVANITE CEMETERY (Yaak River Valley)

The oldest cemetery in the Yaak Valley and located at the Sylvanite Rangers Station. Began in 1895 when a miner named Livermore drowned in the Yaak River while fishing. Suspect that he cemetery also the final resting place of at least two men and a woman of the evening who died with their boots on in a shoot out in a Sylvanite saloon in 1896 or 1897. Last burial (1910) was a Libby man named Anderson who drowned in the Yaak River just before the fire of 1910.

SYLVANITE RANGER STATION (Yaak River Valley)

A U.S. Forest Service administrative site and headquarters of the Yaak Ranger District. Began at Sylvanite in 1908 with the entire compound being over run by a wildfire in 1910, the compound was rebuilt in 1911. Consolidated in 1932 with the Troy Ranger District. The district boundaries extended from the Kootenai River to the boundaries of the Upper Ford Ranger District. Consolidated with the Upper Ford Ranger Station in 1942. Operated until consolidated and moved to Troy in 1987. Compound now used as the Sylvanite Work Center.

SYLVANITE SCHOOL HOUSE (Yaak River Valley)

Current home of the Sylvanite School District, built in 1953.

SYLVANITE TOWNSITE SCHOOL HOUSE (Yaak River Valley)

The first school erected in the Yaak River Valley was located in the old town of Sylvanite in 1897. The school only operated for one year (1897/1898) before the town became a ghost town. The school was destroyed when the wildfire of 1910 burned the town to the ground. Reportedly located on the land homesteaded by Mary Keating (HES 844).

TALLMADGE CREEK (Bull Lake)

For a short time around 1917, Payne Creek was sometimes known by this name.

TAYLOR PEAK (Bull Lake Valley)

Probably named for F. M. Taylor who homesteaded on Lake Creek in c.1892.

TEPEE MOUNTAIN (Yaak River Valley)

In the early days, the Indians erected their tepees at what is now Tepee Springs, located at the base of the mountain.

TEPEE SPRINGS ADMINISTRATION SITE (Yaak River Valley)

The Tepee Springs Administration Site, at 84 acres, was withdrawn in 1908. By 1912 a building was located on the site and used by the Forest Service as a Guard Station.

THREE MILE CREEK (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

A drainage located in Callahan Creek as it is approximately three miles from Troy. Named by early prospectors in 1893.

THROOP LAKE (Kootenai River)

Named for L. E. Throop, an early 1920s Libby and Troy businessman. One of the first local industries was established adjacent to the lake in 1891, when E. J. Merrin moved in a sawmill to cut bridge timbers for the construction crews of the Great Northern Railway.

TILLOTSON CREEK (General Troy Area - Callahan Creek)

Callahan Creek in 1889 was known as Tillotson Creek. May have been named for either William or James Tillotson who homesteaded on the South Fork of Keeler Creek. Although neither were prospectors, they may have pioneered a trail over the mountains from Hope, Idaho coming down Callahan Creek to the Kootenai River.

TROY, MONTANA (1891-1893)

When the Great Northern Railroad grade crew left Lake City in 1892, the townsite was sold to William O'Brien. He in turn, platted a new town which was called Troy. The town took its name for a railroad siding between Lake Creek and Callahan Creek. The siding was named by a railroad surveyor, E. L. Preston, who took a liking to the son of a family in Bonners Ferry where he was boarding, Troy Morrow. The town was short lived with most of the town moving to West Troy after the G.N.R.R. established a division point there.

TROY RANGER STATION (General Troy Area)

Operated as a U.S. Forest Service administrative site and headquarters for the Troy Ranger District. Organized in 1907 and located on the north side of the Kootenai River approximately one and a half miles up river from the current Highway 2 concrete bridge across the Kootenai River. Consolidated with the Yaak Ranger District in 1932. The name Troy Ranger Station and Ranger District replaced the Cabinet Ranger District and moved into the Cabinet Ranger Station compound on the newly constructed section of Highway 2. The original Troy R.S. headquarters was abandoned. Since 1932, the Troy Ranger Station was located across from the Troy Airport until 1987 when it was consolidated with the Yaak Ranger District forming the Three Rivers Ranger District. After 1987, the Troy Ranger Station was expanded to accommodate the demands of the new ranger district.

TWIN CREEK (Bull Lake Valley)

Shown as Porcupine Creek in the late 1890s.

TWIN MEADOWS (Yaak River Valley)

A early name given to the large meadows extending from Spread Creek northward to the Whitetail Campgrounds.

TWO JACK CROSSING (Yaak River Valley)

A bridge located on the Yaak River just north with its junction with Vinal Creek. Jack Cross lived on the west side of the river and Jack West and his son lived on the east side. The crossing was named for Jack West and his son Jack West Junior.

UPHAM CREEK (Bull lake Valley)

Named for Jesse U. Upham an early 1912 homesteader.

UPPER FORD (Yaak River Valley)

Named by early homesteaders to distinguish between two fords in the Yaak River. The Upper Ford was located at the Frenchman's Meadows and where later the Upper Ford Ranger Station was established.

UPPER FORD RANGER STATION (Yaak River Valley)

Headquarters compound for the Upper Ford Ranger District. Operated from 1924 to 1942 when it was consolidated with the Yaak Ranger District. Most of the early buildings were sold in 1970s.

U.S. HIGHWAY 2

Also known as the Glacier Park Auto Highway and the Teddy Roosevelt Highway. The road was completed through the area in 1915, and designated U.S. Highway No. 2 in 1926.

VAN DYKE LAKE (Bull Lake Valley)

Early name for Savage Lake, named for John G. Van Dyke who first homesteaded the lake in 1891. In 1897 he relinquished the land to William Savage. John George Van Dyke was born in 1857 in Illinois. Was a veteran of the Indian War (1876) and part in the detail who buried Custer and his troopers at the Little Big Horn. He was a buffalo hunter and miner before he turned towards gardening. Planted gardens and sold vegetables in Lewiston and Castle, Montana before settling in the Bull Lake Valley. John continued gardening and selling vegetables in the Troy area until his death in 1935.

MOUNT VERNON ((Bull lake Valley)

Name found on early 1897 Montana Maps.

VINAL CREEK and VINAL LAKE (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Leslie E. Vinal, an 1895 Yaak miner, 1896 Pine Creek homesteader and Forest Service employee. Began Forest Service career in 1910 on the Kootenai National Forest, later becoming the Kootenai National Forest Supervisor (1920 to 1922).

VINAL CREEK SCHOOL (Yaak River Valley)

In 1915, a school house was built and operated on the west side of the Yaak River at Lower Ford. The classes in the Yaak School House, as it was officially called, were held until 1919 when a new school house was built on the South Fork of the Yaak River. The building was used as a community hall but was too small for large social events. Abandoned in 1925 after current community hall was built.

WALLACE HILL (General Troy Area)

One of the names for the steep grade on the Kilbrennan Road, heading north from the old steel bridge across the Kootenai River at Troy. Named for the homesteader living at the base of the grade.

WAMPOO CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

Named by early miners in the middle 1890s. A small tent camp of miners known as Paisley Camp was located along the creek near its mouth. The name Wampoo may be connected to an

old nautical expression or phrase.

WATSON CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

A local name for a live creek flowing off Friday Hill into 4th of July Creek, not on Forest Service maps. Named for Jerry Watson, a prospector and California 49er'. Jerry Watson was one of the first prospectors through the Yaak River Valley in 1864 on his way to the Wildhorse Gold strike in Canada. Prospected heavily in Northern Idaho, Grouse Mountain and the Yaak between 1889 and 1895 before trying his luck in the Yukon in 1898. By 1908, he was back in northern Idaho.

WAPER CREEK and WAPER RIDGE (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Leo Waper in 1920, an early homesteader.

WEST TROY (1892 - to Present)

West Troy townsite was filed on in 1892. The town was laid out in 1895. When the G.N.R.R. constructed a division point on its land in 1892, the people of Troy (old Lake City) moved to the new townsite. What we call Troy today is really West Troy, Montana.

WHEELER HILL (Yaak River Valley)

An early name used by homesteaders for the hill located between Wampoo Creek north to the top of the hill on the old Yaak River Road. Named for the 1910 homesteader William "Bill" Wheeler.

WILLIAMSBURG CAMP (Yaak River Valley)

An early 1895 to 1897 tent mining camp established at the mouth of Red Top Creek. Prospectors from this camp confined their efforts from Red Top Mountain to Baldy Mountain.

WILSON'S HILL (Kootenai River - Yaak River)

Now known as Yaak Hill on Highway 2 north of the Yaak River Campgrounds. Named for Wilson's logging camp which was located near the top of the hill in the 1920s. Wilson was a contract logger for the Bonners Ferry Lumber Company.

WINDY CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

The name of a creek in the East Fork of the Yaak, draining from Lake Okaga, originally known as Keeler Creek. Windy Creek first shows up on the 1924 Kootenai National Forest map.

WINDY PASS (Yaak River Valley)

Named in 1897 when a road was proposed through the pass connecting Bonners Ferry with the boom town of Sylvanite.

WHITETAIL CAMPGROUNDS (Yaak River Valley)

Originally known as Long Meadow Administration Site, the campgrounds was constructed by the Forest Service in 1964.

WINKUM CREEK (Yaak River Valley)

In 1910 the Forest Service had a timber crew in the West Fork of the Yaak River. One of the crew went out for fresh meat but came back to camp empty handed. He said he had shot a caribou but could not find it. The rest of the crew ribbed him about his story but he maintained he had been so near the caribou that he could see it wink. Hence the creek was named. The next day they found the caribou under the roots of a down tree.

YAAK

Also spelled Yahk, Yak, Yakt, Yahkt and Yack. Original spelling included Yakt and Yahk. However, by the 1920s, Yaak became the accepted spelling for the word. The first white men to walk through the valley were prospectors in 1865 on their way to the Wild Horse Creek Gold Rush in Canada. The first mention of “Yak River Valley” appeared in a Deer Lodge Newspaper in 1868.

YAAK AIR FORCE BASE (Yaak River Valley)

A radar station was located on the top of Hensley Hill from the 1951 to 1959, as a part of the “Pine Tree Line,” (a part of DEW). A living compound was also located on the flat behind today’s Dirty Shame Saloon.

YAAK, MONTANA (Yaak River Valley)

Name for a small settlement located near the upper end of the Yaak Valley now marked by the Dirty Shame Saloon, and Yaak Mercantile Store and Bar.

YAAK POST OFFICE (Yaak River Valley)

Commissioned in 1914 and used until 1917. Charles B. Weber was postmaster and the post office was located in his home (H. E. S. 482) which was located just above the Upper Ford Ranger Station on the county road. Re-commissioned in 1920 with Icie Betzer as postmistress. The second post office was maintained in the Betzer Home, a log cabin near the Yaak Mercantile Store. The post office persisted until 1957 when it closed.

YAAK RIVER (Yaak River Valley)

Kootenai Indian word generally meaning “arrow or straight.” Originally spelled Yahk. Earliest known record of the river was in a 1868 newspaper article on prospecting.

YAAK SCHOOL HOUSE (Yaak River Valley)

The current home of the Yaak School District. Constructed in 1932 is probably one of the last remaining log schools in operation in the State of Montana.

YAHK MINING DISTRICT (Yaak River Valley)

An unorganized mining district generally describing mining claims and land around the old town of Sylvanite. Formed in 1895 and today known as the Sylvanite Mining District.

YAHK-WILDHORSE TRAIL (Yaak River Valley)

When gold was discovered on Wildhorse Creek near present day Fort Steele in 1864, prospectors headed for the area. Most of them traveled over the Wildhorse Trail located in northern Idaho, but some followed the Kootenai River, Moyie River as well as the Yahk River into Canada. The

year 1864 represents the earliest known date for white intrusion into the Yaak River Valley.

YAKT SIDING (Kootenai River)

A railroad siding which was built in 1892 by the Great Northern Railroad Company. Originally a small railroad settlement existed around a depot located along the side track. During the 1920s a small ferry provided access across the Kootenai River to U.S. Highway 2. The Yakt Post Office was commissioned in 1920 and used until 1947.

YAKT-SYLVANITE ROAD (Yaak River Valley)

A road that proceeded from the Yakt Siding, through Sears Flat and on up the south side of the Yaak River. It tied in with the Kilbrennan Road which went on up to Sylvanite by way of the bridge across Yaak Falls. Pioneered in 1896. Was finally completed in about 1915.

ZIMMERMAN HILL (Yaak River Valley)

Named for Carl Zimmerman in 1914, a homesteader. Also known as “Zimm Hill.”

ZIMMERMAN SCHOOL HOUSE (Yaak River Valley)

Upper Yaak Valley School used between 1920 and when the current Yaak School building was built in 1932. Located on the Zimmerman Homestead, was operated for only a half a school year then the school was conducted down river in the South Fork School house the other half of the year.