



OUTHOUSEPATROL.COM

Gold Rush Artifact Hunters Archival Research Specialists

By: Reginald Shoeman

Introduction to research projects of OUTHOUSEPATROL.COM

Archival research reveals names of 7,300 Hotels, Saloons, other Pioneer business operations.

Between 2010 and 2018, outhousepatrol.com spent several thousand hours researching various projects. Montana Territory business licenses receipts (between 30 and 40 thousand) were searched in most mineral producing counties in southwestern Montana. Names, place of business, fees and dates of operation were logged. Montana Territory, in 1865, mandated licensing fees for hotels, saloon, liveries, and other business type. More than 4,700 names covering the period 1856-1886 were retrieved. The Montana licensing fees were modeled after Federal licensing that the forerunner of the IRS instituted to pay for the Civil War.

Extensive research was conducted on IRS records existing for Iowa and the major gold producing areas of California. Iowa records exist starting in 1862. California records (1863-1866) total more than 2,700 entries. This search was limited to gold country hotels, saloons, (retail and wholesale liquor dealers), liveries, eating houses, and apothecaries. They were the high-volume types of businesses we thought had the best chances of yielding antique bottles or other gold rush artifacts.

Mineral Surveys field notes retraced using Google Earth tools

Precise locations of mining shafts, water ditches, diverted creeks, filled in gulches located.

All depressions, ditches, or water courses may have attracted antique bottles, trade tokens, or other gold rush artifacts.

140,000 Pages of Montana Territory Mineral Survey field notes were obtained from the BLM covering the years 1868-1900. Have done extensive research in the area in and around Butte, Montana, "The Greatest Hill on Earth." More than 1,200 claims were patented within a few miles of Butte.

The mining law of 1872 required a survey of all claims that any miner wished to patent and obtain "surface rights". The miner would have already had mineral rights for his claim providing he performed the annual assessment work. We retrace these surveys using the Deputy Mineral Surveyor's field notes to find precise shaft locations, water ditches, open cuts across the vein, or any structures upon the claims.

Researching other states

Considerable mineral survey retracement work has been done in:

- Tombstone, Arizona
- Nevada: Comstock Lode, vicinity of Gold Hill
- Nevada: Goldfield, Esmeralda County ca 1902

We are interested in partnering with serious bottle diggers.

OUTHOUSEPATROL.COM has been featured on the Front Page of the *Montana Standard* May 23, 2011 Full Color above and below the fold, we are the headline "OUTHOUSE DIGGERS." *Montana Magazine* Mar/April 2011 with 4 pages color spread. Other Montana newspapers featuring us were *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, *The Madisionian*, *Butte Weekly*, and twice in the *Boulder Monitor*.

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