

Real-life characters from the Old West-and the Old East, too

These figures taken from the ranks of history may make you think of fictional characters or situations in Turpentine.

Colonel Henry Inman wrote an account in 1897 of a disastrous journey into the American desert without enough water, led by Captain Becknell. "When what they had brought with them in their canteens from the river was exhausted, thirst began its horrible office. In a short time both men and animals were in a mental condition bordering on distraction. To alleviate their acute torment, the dogs of the train were killed, and their blood, hot and sickening, eagerly swallowed; then the ears of the mules were cut for the same purpose."

In 1840 a New York Tobacconist hired a young woman named Mary Rogers as a clerk in his shop designed to attract men to his store. (Rogers' unsolved murder a year later was known as "The Mystery of the Beautiful Cigar Girl.")

In 1860 Lewis Osterweis & Sons, a cigar store, was founded in New Haven, CT and remained in business until 1954.

Between 1850 and 1890 over 31,000 were killed in coal mines with hundreds of thousands injured. It wasn't uncommon for coal collieries to employ children as young as twelve, at times taking kids as young as seven. Edward Cannon -Irish laborer, aged seven years, was fatally injured by mine cars in the No. 5 mine of Landsford on the 26th day of November 1884.

It was claimed by Edward Cope, one of the three great 19th century paleontologists, that Othniel Marsh, another 19th century paleontologist, had stolen fossils, plagiarized his writings and was overall an incompetent scientist.

According to Evan Connell in Son of the Morning Star, a washerwoman by the name of Nash married a private named Noonan. While Private Noonan was away his bride sickened and died. Before dying she told those caring for her not to wash and dress her if she died. They refused and when preparing her for burial found she was not female. It was reported in the Bismarck Tribune that Noonan, because of the shame that fell on him in the discovery of his wife's sex, committed suicide with a pistol.

Ina Raymonde was a young woman in the late 19th century. Her fiancé, who was also betrothed to another, was found shot. It was rumored that Ina was the killer as she was known to be an astounding marksman. Ina and her family changed their name and relocated to Nebraska.

Texas Jack Omahundro A fellow scout of Buffalo Bill Cody, Texas Jack not only scouted, cowboyed, and buffalo hunted, but also became a stage actor and married an Italian actress by the name of Josephine Morlacchi.