

Searching for Roy Bandy's 1912 Campsite

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Figure 1 - *Breakfast on the Big Horns*, oil painting by Irvin “Shorty” Shope, 1970

During August 1912 a General Land Office (GLO) survey party headed by Roy Bandy was traveling across northern Wyoming with two horse-drawn wagons and one saddle horse. The GLO, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, was the government agency designated by law to survey the public lands and make them available for homesteading, sale, or transfer by other means from federal to private ownership. This crew had just finished work associated with some homestead entry surveys^{1,2} in Wyoming's Sunlight Basin about 19 miles southeast of Cooke City, Montana and was headed for the area of the Little Bighorn River about 14 miles west of Parkman, Wyoming to complete a township survey³ begun in 1902 to enable finalization of some homestead claims.

Their route took them along the summit of the Bighorn⁴ Mountains within the Bighorn National Forest, and the evening of 12 August the party traveled until dusk before finding and camping beside a snowbank left from the previous winter. As they were traveling high above any flowing streams, the snowbank was a welcome sight that would provide water for the crew and their horses.

The next morning, Roy Bandy captured a Kodak photo of their campsite with the snowbank in the background as his wife Inez, the cook for the party, was preparing breakfast. Almost 60 years later, in 1970, Roy and his daughter Zoe Reith commissioned Irvin “Shorty” Shope, a popular Montana artist, to create an oil painting titled *Breakfast on the Big Horns* (Figure 1) based on that photo in memory of Inez. Prints of that painting are

regularly offered on scholarship auctions sponsored by the Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors (MARLS) at their annual conferences, as well as being sold outright by MARLS⁵, and now grace the walls of many offices and homes in the region.

William Roy Bandy (1885-1972) began his land-surveying career in 1905 near Garland, Wyoming while employed by a surveyor performing work for the GLO on a contract basis. In 1906 Bandy was appointed a U.S. Deputy Surveyor, reportedly the youngest person to receive such an appointment. During 1907 through 1910 he worked as a surveyor and engineer on canal and tunnel⁶ construction for irrigation projects, both federal and private, in Wyoming and Idaho.

In 1910 the GLO, in accordance with a new law, ended their previous practice of awarding contracts for surveys of public land. Such surveys were thereafter to be done by surveyors directly employed by the GLO. In 1911, newly married and looking for stable employment, Mr. Bandy accepted employment as a U.S. Transitman with the Wyoming office of the GLO with headquarters in Cheyenne. His first assignment included the resurvey of six townships around and to the north of Cody. His wife Inez joined the party as cook. In 1914 he was transferred to the Montana GLO headquartered at Helena where he remained through 1945 except for a few special details.

In 1930 Bandy earned a Bachelor of Law degree from the Blackstone Institute of Law of Chicago, Illinois.

In 1929 and 1930 Congress enacted legislation changing large parts of the north and east boundaries of Yellowstone National Park from the original rectangle defined at the park's establishment in 1872 by parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude to a shape in part defined by the crests of mountain ranges that divided watersheds. During 1931 through 1933 Bandy and his crews surveyed the rough and remote eastern boundary of the park as well as the revised portions of the park's northern boundary.

The summer of 1936 found Bandy (then 51 years old) leading survey parties doing township completion surveys in the rugged mountains around Cooke City, Montana⁷ and along the eastern side of the Pryor Mountains, an area previously considered to be impossible to survey.

During the mid-1940s the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, which provided a comprehensive plan for the conservation, control, and use of water resources in the entire Missouri River Basin, began to take shape under direction of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. In 1946 the GLO Director placed Bandy in charge of all public land surveys in the ten Missouri River Basin states with the title Cadastral Engineer, a position he held until he retired at the end of 1954. Upon completion of his long career of government service, the Secretary of the Interior granted Mr. Bandy the Department's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

In his retirement, Bandy wrote several articles that appeared in local newspapers as well as in regional and national magazines. He also served as a consultant on property and boundary issues.

This writer, the successful bidder on a framed print of *Breakfast on the Big Horns* at a MARLS scholarship auction held sometime in the late 1990s or early 2000s, had for several years considered an attempt to locate Bandy's 1912 campsite. The writer's home in Cody, Wyoming is about 65 air miles from the search area.

At a Wyoming Engineering Society convention I mentioned this possible quest to Joel Ebner, who was at the time a cadastral surveyor assigned to the Gillette, Wyoming office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM – established in 1946 when the GLO was merged with the U.S. Grazing Service). A few weeks later, Mr. Ebner sent an envelope (postmark reads 03 April 2003) containing several items including photocopies of pages from a 1991 BLM publication titled *Running Line – Recollections of Surveyors* that contain a Bandy account⁸ of the party's journey across the Bighorn Mountains. Also included were documents related to the work they were

traveling to as well as a photocopy of the title page of *Legal Principles of Property Boundary Location on the Ground in the Public Land Survey States* (by Ira M. Tillotson, 1973) that features *Breakfast on the Big Horns*. The page immediately opposite the title page of the Tillotson book includes an explanation of the painting written by Roy Bandy that states the elevation of the campsite as 9,560 feet. The same Bandy writing⁹ also appears on the back of my framed print of *Breakfast on the Big Horns*.

My campaign to locate the campsite remained stuck in “Park” until the summer of 2018. My initial activities included downloading and acquiring from others historic maps of the area, investigating historic travel routes in the area, and trying to locate a print of the photo on which the painting is based.

Bandy’s account in *Running Line* . . . states they crossed the Bighorn River at Kane, Wyoming where a ferry was in operation. From Kane, evidence suggests the historic route for teams and wagons heading eastward to the top of the Bighorns ascended via the Five Springs Creek drainage to around 8,000 feet elevation before turning south into the Crystal Creek drainage and passing south of Medicine Mountain. A 1914 Bighorn National Forest map¹⁰ shows this route being used to reach the Porcupine Creek Ranger Station (now known as the Porcupine Ranger Station; that name appears on a 1927 Bighorn National Forest map) from the west. That 1914 map also shows two sawmills along that route close to the western Forest boundary. That is the route developed during the 1930s into part of the Dayton-Kane Road, the western portion of which later became officially known as U.S. Highway 14A. U.S. Highway 14A on the west side of the Bighorns was relocated to its current farther-south alignment in 1983.

Information provided in 2003 by Joel Ebner showed the location of the surveys the Bandy party performed after reaching their destination. Bandy’s account includes the name of the homestead entryman, W.T. Broderick, waiting for their arrival. Searching the online GLO records defined the lands patented to Mr. Broderick¹¹.

In 1901 the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) issued the Bald Mountain 30-minute (1:125,000 scale) quadrangle map¹² (hereinafter referred to as a “quad”). That map was part of a massive campaign to map the newly established Forest Reserves, which became today’s National Forests. The 1901 Bald Mountain quad shows a group of unimproved roads running from the area of the Porcupine Creek / Porcupine Ranger Station up over Duncom Mountain, then north and east until entering Montana a few miles west of the Little Bighorn River and the party’s destination. Those roads still exist today; the ones of primary interest are known by the names Sheep Mountain Road (Forest Service Road 11) and Marble Quarry Road (Forest Service Road 111).

Due to terrain and available roads the Bandy party would have traveled through southern Montana for about seven miles before re-entering Wyoming on the way to their destination. The Wyoming road now designated by Sheridan County as Pass Creek Road also appears on the 1901 Bald Mountain quad.

It remains a mystery how Roy Bandy determined the elevation of the campsite. Did he simply interpolate the elevation from the 100-foot-interval contour lines on the USGS) quad? Field notes of the work done at their destination state they did have a clinometer which they used while chaining to determine true horizontal distances. Did they use their transit or clinometer to derive elevation by employing trigonometric leveling to a local bench mark? Or did they just read the elevation on a bench mark they passed (a bench mark very close to Sheep Mountain Road was marked "9566 SHER" and the group would have passed it - the capless pipe was still protruding from the ground on 17 September 2018 but was found broken off flush with ground on 13 August 2020) and call that good?

Drawing from the rather precise elevation mentioned above, I decided to concentrate on sites with elevations between 9,500 and 9,600 feet with a history of persistent snow. I created a KMZ file¹³ consisting of contour lines at those elevations and opened it in Google Earth.

The latest Google Earth satellite imagery for the general area was (and still is) dated 25 June 2017. Several areas along the route of interest (generally described as between roughly three to eight miles north of U.S. Highway 14A along the Big Horn-Sheridan County line, which in that area follows the hydrologic divide between the Bighorn River to the west and the Little Bighorn River to the east) showed snow remaining on that date at between 9,500 and 9,600 feet elevation.

I reached Roy's grandson Dirk Reith who is my age, we both graduated high school in 1968. He lives in Hawaii and has a business called Maui Movers. He said that in addition to the original painting that hangs in his living room, he had a box of papers and photos that Roy left behind to his late mother Zoe Reith (Roy and Inez's only child who lived to maturity), who in turn left it to him. Dirk said he would go through it and let me know if he found anything that may be of use in my efforts.

During July 2018 I hired an independent researcher based in Helena, Montana to visit the Montana Historical Society (MHS) to see what she could find that could aid my search. The Bandy file at MHS did not have any photos or negatives, but it did include a Bandy manuscript that provided another *Breakfast on the Big Horns* account¹⁴, as well as newspaper clippings that included an article Bandy wrote that appeared in the Great Falls Tribune on Sunday 03 September 1961 that recounted the party's adventure while crossing the Bighorn River on their return trip to Wyoming's Bighorn Basin later in 1912¹⁵. That piece included a cropped photo of the campsite depicted in *Breakfast on the Big Horns* but was too grainy to be of any use in the immediate project.

My first trip to the area on 03 July 2018 was mainly for orientation and casually looking around on Sheep Mountain Road for someplace obvious.

My second visit on 20 July explored the areas generally southwest of Medicine Mountain with elevations between 9500 and 9600 feet and late season snowbanks. It quickly became obvious that it would have been impossible to traverse those areas with teams and wagons. That outing did provide plenty of exercise nonetheless.

Before my third outing on 01 August 2018 I used QGIS (an open-source geographic information system [GIS] program) to georeference a road shown on a 1917 Forest Service map onto the 1901 Bald Mountain 15-minute quad, found that they agreed well as to the road location. Loaded that map into my Garmin Montana GPS receiver and headed for the Bighorns. While driving to the search area that morning on Sheep Mountain Road it was noticed that as I got close to Duncom Mountain (which for the purposes of this article I consider to be the summit where U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey [C&GS] triangulation station DUNCOM [PID PW0564]¹⁶ is located, not the location shown by Google Earth as Duncum Mountain¹⁷) I was a few hundred feet west of the 1917 road. The current road is on a significant side hill and crosses several gullies, which would have been an unlikely (more like impossible) road alignment before the advent of motorized earthmoving equipment. The 1901/1917 road went across the top of the mountain crossing contour lines at right angles. To the best of this writer's knowledge, all renditions of the 1901 Bald Mountain USGS quad show this alignment. The C&GS recovery notes for point DUNCOM indicate Sheep Mountain Road was in its current alignment in 1957. The 1960 Bald Mountain 7.5-minute (1:24,000 scale) USGS quad shows the road at its current farther west alignment.

During the morning I walked over the summit of Duncom Mountain looking for possible campsites to the south and east and did not see anything. After lunch I investigated an area spotted earlier from the summit, generally north-northwest of said summit. I believed that to be the most likely campsite. It had a significant amount of snow remaining on 01 August, it being the only wagon-accessible snow I found that day, there was a small stream in a defined channel flowing from the snowbank from which it would have been easy to fill buckets (as mentioned by Bandy in his accounts), the elevation matched the reports, and it would have been fairly accessible with teams and wagons with minimal side hill. (This site also had snow remaining on 14 August 2019 and 13 August 2020.)

Around the same time I was discussing this little mission with some Wyoming and Montana surveyors, including Stanton “Stan” Abell (Wyoming and Montana professional engineer and land surveyor) of Worland, Wyoming and Kurt Luebke (professional land surveyor in Wyoming, Montana, and eleven additional states) of Missoula, Montana.

During August 2018 Linda Abell (wife of Stan Abell) came across the Bandy *Breakfast on the Big Horns* account that appeared in the March 2018 issue of *The Florida Surveyor*¹⁸. That retelling mentions Sheep Mountain to the north (which is not exactly "towering" as Bandy described it), states the snowbank was 50 feet deep, and indicates the “altitude” as 9546 feet. Here Bandy also describes how they went northeasterly into Montana a few miles to intersect a road that led southeasterly back into Wyoming and the lands to be surveyed, which confirmed the route assumed earlier.

Stan and Linda Abell visited the area during Labor Day weekend of 2018 and Stan offered his own thesis as to the campsite location. Kurt Luebke submitted his idea as well, based only on his examination of the maps and other materials available at the time.

As the anniversary date of the event neared in 2019, I planned a trip to the Bighorns for 14 August. On 13 August I went to the post office and found waiting two boxes from Roy's grandson Dirk. He had sent me everything from some of Roy's grammar-school report cards and letters of reference he brought with him to Wyoming in 1905 to his late-in-life writings. Included were three more accounts of the *Breakfast on the Big Horns* campsite. I soon found a print of the photo that was the basis for the painting (Figure 7), obviously Roy was not in the photo because he was behind the camera - teamster Karl Suhr is where Roy appears in the painting. There were also two other prints (on postcards) of the group standing on the snowbank, one taken from the north and one from the east. I was off to the races, or so I thought.

I scanned the photo prints¹⁹ and printed my working copies, then headed up the mountain the next morning. The photo of the group taken from the north showed two good-sized rocks in the background. Those rocks are denoted as Rock 1 and Rock 2 on Figure 2. That photo was taken by Roy's younger brother Willis Bandy (who appears at the far left in the painting and in Figure 7) and includes Roy at the lower left. Rock 1 and Rock 2 sort-of matched what is now at the site I found the previous summer and that are shown in Figure 3. I walked the areas chosen by Stan and Kurt, and honestly did not see anything matching the background of the from-the-north image.



Figure 2 – 1912 photo of group on snowbank, taken from the north, with prominent rocks marked

It was believed that Rock 1 and Rock 2 would be the key to identifying the actual campsite. As of that time, the rocks shown on Figure 3 (at the site of my 2018 thesis) appeared to be the closest match to those in the historic image, at least among those seen by this writer. Things can and do change over 110 years, with frost heave, soil accumulation, erosion, etc.

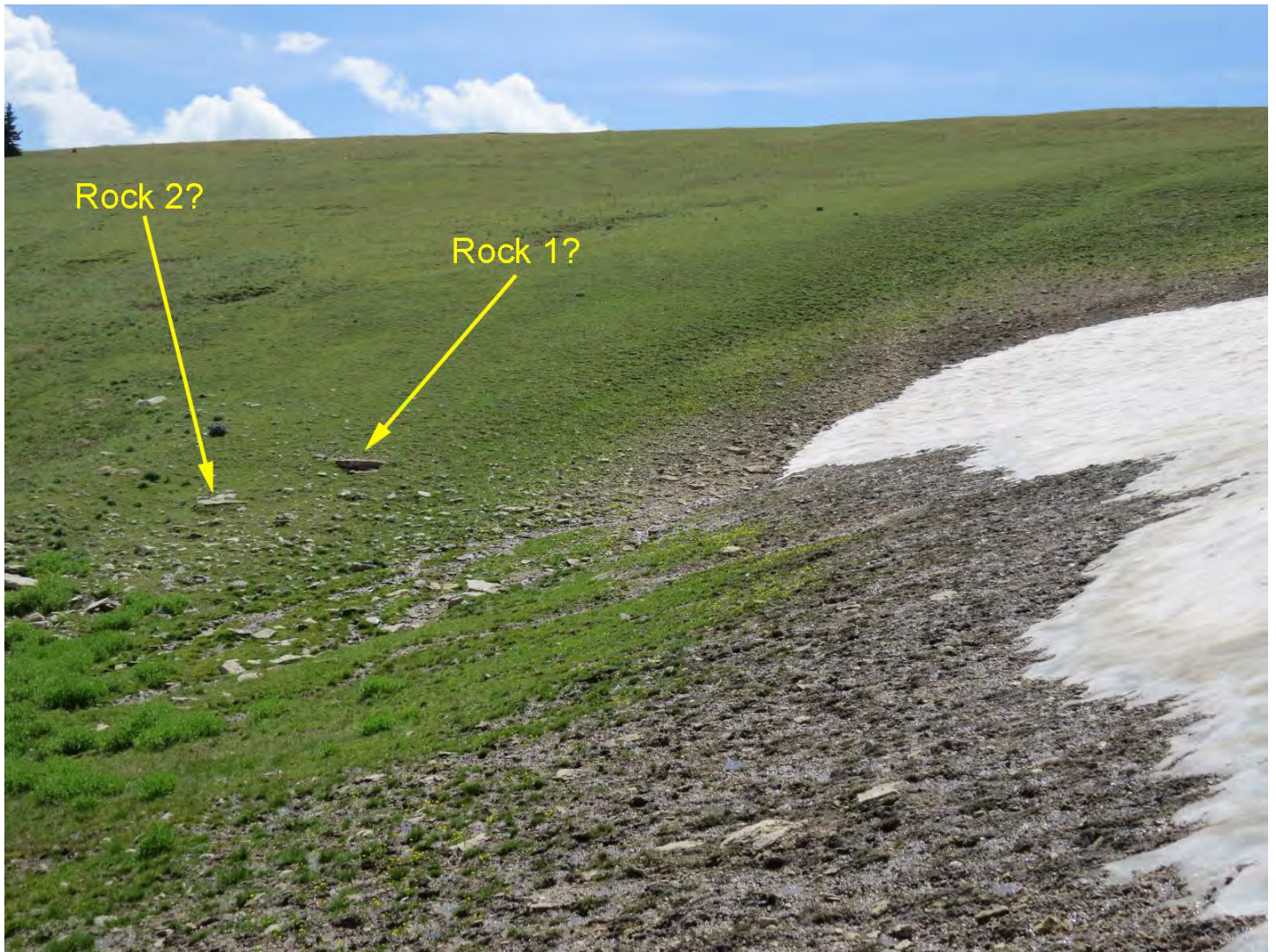


Figure 3 – Prominent rocks seen at site of author’s location thesis of 2018-08-01, as seen on 14 August 2019

Bandy’s account in *The Florida Surveyor* described the campsite as being “nestled in the shelter of a natural cove.” My bowl-shaped site seemed to match that characteristic well.

During the 14 August 2019 visit I also located USGS BM 9810 SHER²⁰, which supported my original thesis because in *USGS Bulletin 558 Results of Spirit Leveling in Wyoming 1896 to 1912 Inclusive* (published in 1914) bench mark 9810 SHER is described as being “150 feet east of road”. That information confirms the original location of the road and the path taken by the Bandy party near the Duncom Mountain summit. If one zooms in on the Google Earth imagery dated 25 June 2017 the tracks of this original route are visible 160 feet west of USGS BM 9810 SHER. It is believed they could have seen a snowbank at the site of my 2018 thesis from a wagon seat.

Then on 16 August 2019 I dug further into the materials received from Dirk earlier that week and found a folded copy of the 1960 Boyd Ridge 7.5-minute (1:24,000 scale) USGS quad, which was apparently marked up by Roy himself!²¹ In addition to indicating the location of the campsite and the route traveled, Roy also marked the map with the land’s section, township, and range in the Public Land Survey System (PLSS).

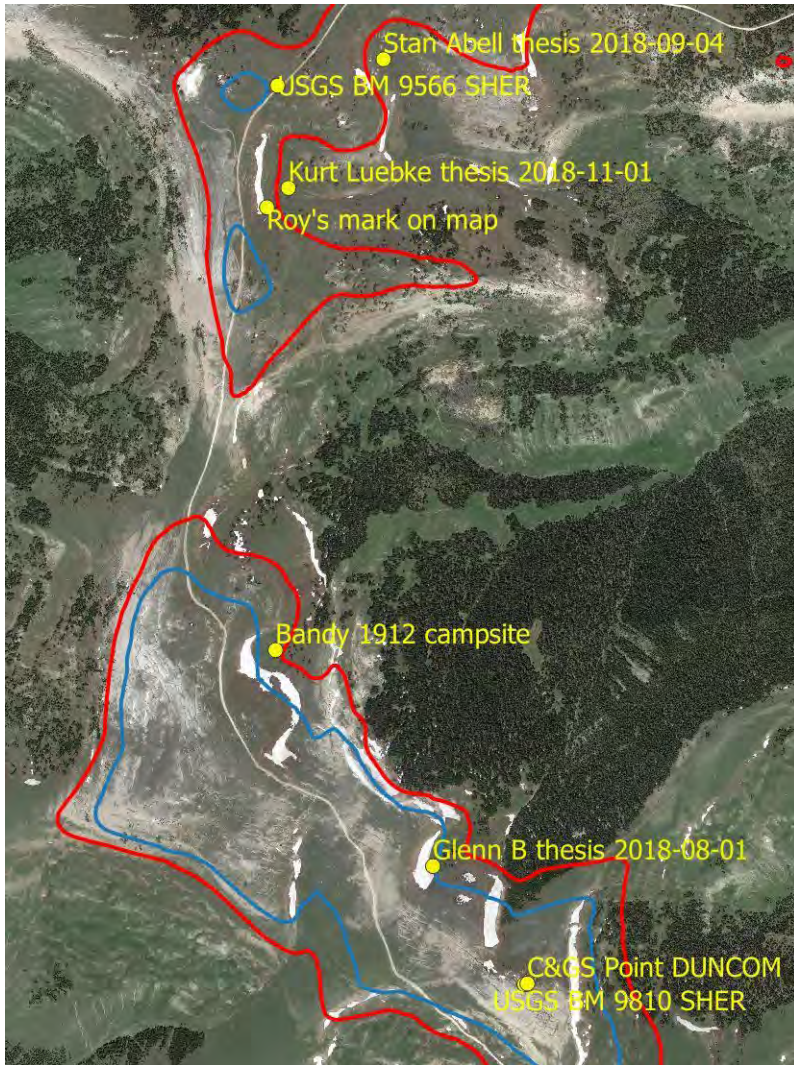


Figure 4 – Annotated satellite image

Figure 4 is a satellite image showing where Roy marked the USGS quad of the previous paragraph. It also shows the three location theses presented during 2018, the C&GS triangulation station DUNCOM, and the USGS bench marks 9566 SHER and 9810 SHER. The 9500-foot contour line appears in red and the 9600-foot contour line appears in blue. The white line running south to north is Sheep Mountain Road. Finally, to avoid including another image in this writeup, the actual campsite location is also shown there.

To provide a sense of scale for Figure 4, the distance between USGS BM 9810 SHER on the south end and the Stan Abell thesis 2018-09-04 on the north end is 2.45 miles.

Based on Roy's mark, Kurt Luebke's thesis is the winner!

Roy's PLSS statement of Section 5 in Township 55 North Range 91 West Sixth Principal Meridian (S5 T55N R91W) is quite a ways off - that land remains unsurveyed but by protraction shown on the 1993 Boyd Ridge USGS quad it would be Section 28 of Township 57 North Range 91 West. That is roughly 8 miles farther north than Roy's section.

Nothing found to date indicates Roy ever revisited the site but he and Inez lived in Billings, Montana (about 70 air miles to the north-northwest) for several years in the late-1940s-to-mid 1950s era and he wrote about visiting the Cody-Powell area at least once.

During 2020 I found another version of the *Breakfast on the Big Horns* story, this one appeared in the Congressional Record – Senate dated 08 September 1972. Roy Bandy passed away on 23 July 1972.

So things were uncertain for a few years. My site from 2018 matched Bandy's description in several ways²², but it was a stretch to believe the rocks in Figure 3 were actually the ones shown in Figure 2. There is nothing in the area selected by Stan and Kurt (as well as where Roy marked the USGS quad) that looks like the background in Figure 2 and that area does not have much of anything for late-season snow (climate change??). Also, there are no visible channels of runoff water in that area.

Cody Schatz (Wyoming professional engineer and land surveyor) of Cody, Wyoming and I went to the area on Sunday 28 June 2020. We walked about two miles that morning, but unfortunately the rain forecast for mid-day arrived right on schedule. A section of the south end of Sheep Mountain Road is steep with some deep ruts so we quickly left the area to avoid getting stuck or worse. We did not have time to check out the site of my 2018 thesis.

On Saturday 20 August 2022, 110 years and one week²³ after the photo was taken, three of us (hiking buddies Kathy Morgan and Doneen Fitzsimmons, both of Cody, Wyoming, and myself) ventured back to the area. Our first stop was my favored site from 2018, where I failed to convince my fellow searchers that that was the site pictured in the 1912 photos. They noted that the small drainage features descending right-to-left in the 1912 photo of the group on snowbank viewed from north (Figure 2) were missing (as Kurt Luebke pointed out in an email message in August 2019) and the terrain generally did not match that shown in the photo.

Then we went to the next wagon-accessible site to the north with a historic late-season snowbank, an area I had walked three times previously, including with Cody Schatz on our rain-shortened 2020 search. Cody mentioned that based on his decades-long experience in the area this site is where he had observed the most persistent snowbank. This site does have runoff channels that would have made filling buckets easy. Again nothing matching Rock 1 and Rock 2 was immediately seen, but that did not stop my sharp-eyed teammates from looking for and finding similarities.

No snow was present this day but Kathy and Doneen soon noted that the terrain features matched those shown in the from-the-north photo of the group on the snowbank. They also observed five or more smaller nearby rocks that matched up nearly perfectly with those appearing in the image of the group on snowbank viewed from north, as well as some farther-away rocks, as shown in Figures 5 and 6. Finally, we noted that the rocks near the horizon in the background of the photo featuring Inez Bandy cooking breakfast agreed with those seen presently. Those are shown in Figures 7 and 8. This site also agreed with Bandy's account in *The Florida Surveyor* describing the campsite as being "nestled in the shelter of a natural cove." On our walk back up to Sheep Mountain Road²⁴ we noted a long-abandoned two-track path about 140 feet east of the current road that is presumably the route used in 1912, which means the snowbank would have been obvious from a wagon. We suspect that they spotted the snowbank as they passed by, then circled around to their right and down to the campsite.



Figure 5 – 1912 from-the-north image with comparison rocks circled



Figure 6 – 2022 from-the-north image with comparison rocks circled



Figure 7 – 1912 from-the-east image of campsite with comparison rocks circled



Figure 8 – 2022 from-the-east image with comparison rocks circled

So we determined that the Bandy party’s August 1912 campsite “on the Big Horns” was very close to the site from which the image in Figure 8 was taken, which is 44.87355 degrees north latitude and 107.85802 degrees west longitude. That position is near the northwest corner of the Bald Mountain 7.5-minute (1:24,000 scale) USGS quad.

The astute reader will now be asking “*What about Rock 1 and Rock 2? They do not appear in Figure 6 (the 2022 comparison image). Where are they?*” Well, both of those rocks fell victim to erosion over the past 110 years and are now on the side and bottom of a gully respectively, as shown in Figures 9 through 11. Those rocks also appear from a distance in Figure 8. That is why they went unobserved in my three previous visits to the site.

I learned a valuable lesson that day and gladly give Kathy and Doneen full credit for finding the site. Without them I would still be wandering around looking for Rock 1 and Rock 2, expecting to find them as they appeared in 1912!



Figure 9 – Rock 1 viewed from the north



Figure 10 – Rock 2 viewed from the northeast

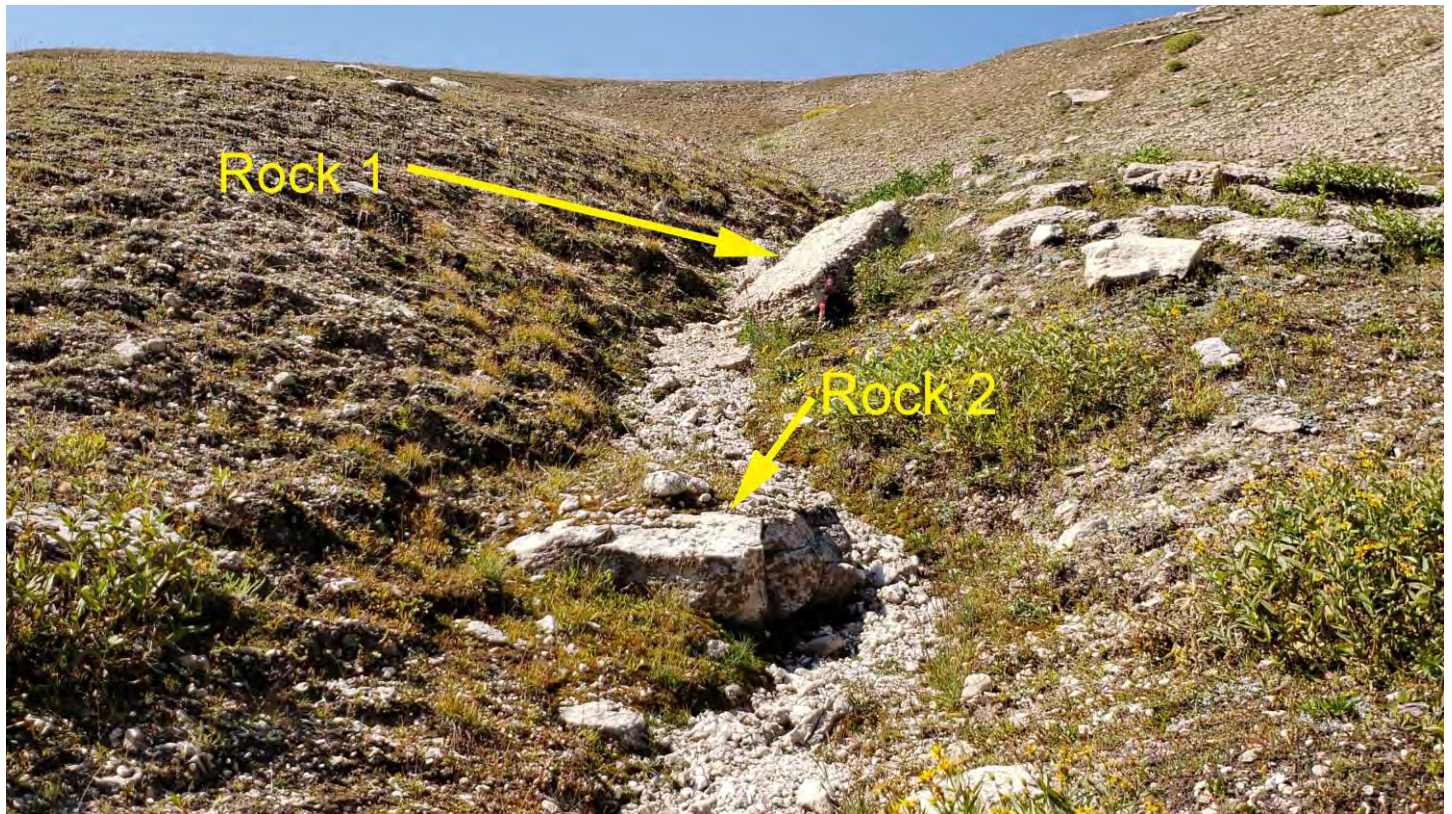


Figure 11 – Rock 1 and Rock 2 viewed from the east

Comments

The day after we located Bandy's 1912 campsite the temperature was forecast to reach over 90 degrees in Cody. Early on 21 August a group of us headed for Yellowstone National Park (YNP). There we hiked up Avalanche Peak, which is on the eastern border of YNP. My companions humored me on the way down and we took a 0.31-mile side trip to YNP Mile Corner 32½ which was set by Roy Bandy in 1932, 20 years after he took the snapshot memorialized in *Breakfast on the Big Horns*.

Now my next task is to get all the materials entrusted to me by Roy's grandson Dirk to someplace where they will be preserved and accessible to future users. Since Roy spent the majority of his life and career in Montana, the Montana Historical Society (MHS) is the logical choice. The MHS facility in Helena is now in the construction phase of being expanded to almost double its current size, and as mentioned above, they already have a William Roy Bandy file. The other leading contender is the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

Notes

Suggestion: To avoid frustration caused by scrolling back and forth between the article and its Notes, here are a few things to try -

If you are using a web browser without split-screen option, then it may help to open this PDF in two adjacent tabs and viewing the article in one tab and the Notes in the second tab. In Firefox or Chrome, for instance, use “Duplicate Tab” which is accessed by right-clicking on the first tab. Then right-click on hyperlinks in the notes and select “Open in new tab”, finally click on the new tab.

If you are using Adobe Acrobat or another PDF viewer that offers a “split-screen” option, that will work fine. Check under “View” and “Window” for such an option.

The current version of Adobe Acrobat Reader does not appear to offer split-screen viewing. One workaround is to go to “Window”, then “New Window” to create a duplicate view. You can use one for the article and the other for the Notes.

1. In the present context, “homestead entry survey” refers to a survey done under the Forest Homestead Act of June 11, 1906. Apparently some in Congress became concerned that the recently established Forest Reserves (which became National Forests in 1908) were taking too much land that could be put to productive agricultural use by homesteaders, so they provided a mechanism for persons to claim homestead land within Forest Reserves and later National Forests. Such lands were usually in remote and mountainous areas that were not surveyed into the traditional townships. Also, the lands suitable for agriculture were typically of irregular shape due to terrain and other factors, so the Act allowed for entries by metes and bounds description, rather than the rectangular aliquot descriptions typically used under normal homestead entries.
2. In most accounts of *Breakfast on the Big Horns* Bandy mentions that immediately before embarking on the trip that took them across the Bighorn Mountains his survey party did work around the homestead of Martin Ranmael in the Sunlight Basin, which was at the time within the Shoshone National Forest. Mr. Ranmael’s claim is Homestead Entry Survey (HES) 54. Bandy’s name does not appear anywhere either on the plat or in the field notes for HES 54. HES 50 through 54 all indicate they were surveyed by Charles E. Hayden during July 1912. The plat for HES 54 shows the survey was performed from 12 July 1912 to 18 July 1912.

Joel Ebner, who retired from the BLM in Cheyenne in 2019 but is still working there part-time on a contract basis, has been looking at records in an effort to determine exactly what the Bandy party did in the Sunlight Basin during the summer of 1912. He reports that he has not found anything conclusive to date, but the Group 8 Instructions issued to Bandy provide an indirect indication that Bandy’s party went to Sunlight Basin to examine Hayden’s homestead entry surveys. Joel has suggested that since that was around the time during which the GLO was transitioning from contracting surveys to doing them with their own employees some records pertaining to homestead entry surveys may have been lost in the shuffle.

Charles Hayden was a land surveyor and professional engineer in private practice in Cody, Wyoming. His Wyoming registration number is PELS 17, issued in 1925. Hayden, along with Ernest Van Dreveldt and William E. Hymer, platted the original Cody City in 1895. That site was just east of DeMaris Hot Springs, about two miles southwest of where today’s downtown Cody was platted in 1901. The Hayden Arch Bridge across the Shoshone River, which is west of Cody and just east of Buffalo Bill Dam, was named in his honor.

3. The Wikipedia article titled “Public Land Survey System” is a good resource for those not familiar with certain terms and is found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_Land_Survey_System

4. There is a long-standing controversy as to what to call this mountain range – the Big Horn Mountains or the Bighorn Mountains. A well-researched letter to the editor that appeared in the 21 June 2016 edition of the Sheridan (Wyoming) Press from a Mr. Rich Urbatchka of Sheridan explains that before 1962 the Big Horn version was commonly used but during that year the United States Board of Geographic Names officially named the range the Bighorn Mountains and specifically stated that the terms Big Horn Mountains and Big Horn Range were not to be used, at least by Federal agencies. The names of Big Horn County, Wyoming, Big Horn County, Montana, and the unincorporated community of Big Horn, Wyoming were not affected by the Federal name determination.
5. If you would like to order a print, here are [ordering instructions as of October 2022](#).
6. You can read Bandy's account of his time spent as a tunnel engineer/surveyor working for the Big Horn Basin Development Company on its Wiley Project south of Cody in his article titled [Ghosts Took Over the Tunnel](#) that was published in the April 1966 issue of *Annals of Wyoming*.
7. Bandy reported finding a 49-chain (over 6/10 of a mile!) error in the positions of the mileposts along in the Wyoming-Montana state line established by Rollin Reeves during 1879 and 1880. Four complete accounts of this, along with a partial version (The Montaneer) are found in [this folder](#). Those are arranged in the order of publication or writing, as best as can be determined.
8. This was the first known of several Bandy tellings of the *Breakfast on the Big Horns* story. All versions are available for viewing [here](#), arranged in the order they came to the writer's attention. Some versions, such as those in *American Forests* and *Powell Tribune*, are reprints of earlier-published versions and acknowledge that detail.
9. That note can be seen [here](#).
10. That map can be viewed [here](#).
11. Those lands are shown as red rectangles toward the upper right of [this map](#).
12. It is believed that the 1901 version is the original and oldest quad issued for the area. Two "1898" versions of the Bald Mountain quad are available for download from [USGS's topoView system](#) (after loading the hyperlink, click on the "Map Name" tab toward the upper right, then enter "Bald Mountain, WY" in the search box to see the versions available), but closer examination shows that both of those are more than a half century newer than the one indicated as "1901 (HTMC, 1901 ed.)" (HTMC stands for Historical Topographic Map Collection.) One "1898" version is designated "1898 (HTMC, 1957 ed.)" and bears an easy-to-miss notation appearing below the bottom right corner of the map area that reads "INTERIOR – GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. WASHINGTON, D.C. – 1957". The other is designated "1898 (HTMC, 1963 ed.)". Both "1898" versions show the Bighorn National Forest name, which was not applied until 1908. It is believed they were designated as 1898 because the initial survey work was done in 1898. The 1901 Bald Mountain quad in both its edition of March 1901 and the January 1906 reprint use the correct (at the time) Bighorn Forest Reserve name. The 1917 printing of the 1901 Bald Mountain quad assigns the name as Big Horn National Forest. Again, the Big Horn v. Bighorn controversy. The 1943 printing of the 1901 Bald Mountain quad uses the Bighorn National Forest name.
13. A KMZ file is a compressed (zipped, therefore the last letter Z) version of a KML file, which stands for Keyhole Markup Language. Such files are commonly used with geospatial software such as Google Earth Pro, which is available for free download. The KMZ file is called [Search1.kmz](#) and can be downloaded from the hyperlink.

14. That account of *Breakfast on the Big Horns* can be viewed [here](#).
15. The article can be found [here](#).
16. A KMZ file that will mark that spot in Google Earth or other geospatial software is found [here](#), along with images of and datasheet for that triangulation station.
17. Cody Schatz mentioned in an email that he knew this feature as Duncum Mountain, also he was familiar with Duncum Creek. It appears the spelling, as well as the location, of Duncom/Duncum Mountain seems to have evolved through the decades.

In *USGS Bulletin 558 Results of Spirit Leveling in Wyoming 1896 to 1912 Inclusive* the location of bench mark 9810 SHER is described as "Duncom Mountain, on top of, . . ."

The recovery notes (1957 - only recovery notes were from when it was established but it was still there and undisturbed on 20 August 2022) for C&GS triangulation station DUNCOM also used Duncom. Those notes describe the point's location as "on east end of Duncom Mountain" and the datasheet shows its NAVD 88 orthometric height as 9840 feet and NGVD 29 elevation as 9836 feet.

So I figured if "Duncom" was good enough for the preceding I would stick with it for the writeup.

Looking at the USGS quads from USGS's topoView page -

The 1901 (HTMC, 1901 ed.) through 1901 (HTMC, 1943 ed.) as well as the "1898" (HTMC, 1957 ed.) version show Duncom Mt. or Duncom Mtn. with the "D" just to the east of USGS BM 9810 SHER, the words oriented at 90° azimuth. These maps are all 30-minute, 1:125,000 scale. None label the creek with the same name.

The latest 30-minute, 1:125,000 scale map is at the link labeled 1898 (HTMC, 1963 ed.) shows Duncum Mtn (again with the "D" just east of USGS BM 9810 SHER and the words at 90° azimuth) and Duncum Creek. That one includes a line just outside the map area in the lower right that says "INTERIOR - GEOLOGICAL SURVEY - WASHINGTON, D.C. - 1963".

In the 7.5-minute, 1:24,000 scale maps, the 1960 (HTMC, 1962 ed.) through the 1960 (HTMC, 1992 ed.) have the label Duncum Mountain, with the words scaling out to over 4500 feet at azimuth around 135 degrees, the "D" a few hundred feet northeast of the northwest summit marked 9831 (west of Sheep Mountain Road) and the final "n" in Mountain a few hundred feet northwest of the southeast summit with triangulation station "Duncom" (which is very close to USGS BM 9810 SHER).

Continuing with the 7.5-minute, 1:24,000 scale maps, the 1993 (HTMC, 1997 ed.) version has the Duncum Mountain label same as the earlier versions at this scale, but now the triangulation station is labeled "Duncum".

Then come the "US Topo" series maps. Looking at the 2012 version, it shows the name Duncum Mountain beginning generally east of the northwest summit and ending generally north of the southeast summit. The words are oriented at a little less than 90. This version does not show the triangulation station or any of the bench marks. The later versions have some variant of that, with the 2021 version showing Duncum Mountain about one fourth of the way between the southeast summit and the northwest summit (the areas with the contours labeled 9800).

Finally (at last) I checked the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, they show two coordinates for Duncum Mountain, Sequence 1 is the northwest summit of earlier versions (west of Sheep Mountain Road) and Sequence 2 is about 0.43 miles north-northwest of Sequence 1 (again west of Sheep Mountain Road). In the Summary, Duncom Mountain is shown as a variant. Duncum Creek is also shown, again with Duncom Creek as a variant.

So the current name since around 1960 for the area is Duncum Mountain and the creek is Duncum Creek. Perhaps someone did some research and found a person associated with the area bearing the surname Duncum. On the gloreCORDS.blm.gov website there are no patentees named either Duncom or Duncum in Wyoming or Montana.

18. [This version](#) that was sent to James Thigpenn of St. Regis Paper Company in Jacksonville, Florida is the only version that seemed to be intended to be read by a land surveyor and includes details not found in other accounts. Information included with that version and later discovered as a result of reading it shows that Bandy was narrating his stories onto cassette tapes and sending them to others (someone in Bozeman, Montana as well as James Thigpenn in Florida; there may have been others?) for transcription. See my [comments on Bandy – Thigpenn correspondence](#).
19. Unmarked images of those three photos are found [here](#). Figures used in this article are found [here](#).
20. An image of and a KMZ file for USGS BM 9810 SHER are found [here](#). That bench mark is set over five feet above ground level on the side of a prominent rock.
21. That map is available for viewing and/or downloading [here](#), in both TIFF and PDF formats. Those are large files, may take awhile to load.
22. My obviously biased comparison of the three theses as of that time is found [here](#).
23. In two known accounts of *Breakfast on the Big Horns*, found [here](#) and [here](#), Bandy clearly states they were at this campsite the night of 12-13 August. That date was assumed to be correct and was used in preparation of this presentation. There exists evidence that suggests that date may be early by several days. Bandy's field notes for T55N R101W, beginning on page 77/89 of the PDF found [here](#), page marked -69- at top center and 735 in upper right corner, report him setting eight monuments establishing the corners of Tract 43 (generally 13 miles north of Cody in the Eaglenest Basin) in that township on 16 August 1912 and the plat from his work mirrors that date. (28 June 1912 is the latest date in those field notes before 16 August; possibly the break in dates indicates when they went to Sunlight Basin.) It is believed that he did the work on Tract 43 after leaving Sunlight Basin on his way to Cody and then onto the Bighorns. Field notes for T58N R89W (their destination) indicate they commenced field work there on 05 September 1912, which supports a later date at the campsite.
24. One thing I failed to check while at the site was whether runoff from Sheep Mountain Road has contributed to erosion of the gully that swallowed Rock 1 and Rock 2. This calls for a 2023 trip back to the area!

Most of the hyperlinks above are pointed toward resources found in [https://inlandwyo.com/pub/Breakfast on the Big Horns/](https://inlandwyo.com/pub/Breakfast_on_the_Big_Horns/). Please feel free to look around at that website, everything there is intended for public viewing. I am attempting to organize some materials by various parts of Roy Bandy's life and career, but that is a work in process.

Bandy's accounts of *Breakfast on the Big Horns* may include a little bit of exaggeration, which is fine. In some he says that they were "well above timberline" shortly after mentioning members of the group gathering firewood around the campsite as they prepared to spend the night. The route they traveled had been in use at least since the mid 1890s and had a series of USGS bench marks alongside, so they were not exactly blazing a new trail. Their campsite was a bit over three miles from the Porcupine Creek Ranger Station, which was staffed and likely had a telephone at the time. Finally, their campsite was only a bit more than half a mile north of the northwest corner of T56N R91W, which was surveyed in 1895 as a result of a little gold rush.

If you find any errors in this presentation or have any questions, suggestions, criticisms, or comments, please contact the writer by email addressed to glenn@inlandgps.com and with "Breakfast on the Big Horns" in the subject line.