

San Bernardino pioneer detailed first-person events of Crazy Horse, Custer, & Crook

By Harvey Kahn

If Frank Grouard is not the most interesting person to live a substantial amount of time in San Bernardino, he is in the top-5. He served as a U.S. Army agent from 1875 to 1893. Before that time, Grouard was captured by Sioux Indians in 1869 while riding for the Pony Express mail service. He was adopted as a son by Chief Sitting Bull. Later, he led a dragnet in an attempt to arrest the James Gang, and was the first U.S. scout on the scene after General George Custer's horrific loss in 1876 at Little Big Horn. After years of coaxing, Grouard finally agreed to describe his life to author Joseph DeBarthe in the 1894 book entitled, *The Life and Adventures of Frank Grouard, Chief of Scouts, U.S.A.*

San Bernardino historian Edward Leo Lyman wrote that Frank Grouard was born on the Polynesian Islands in 1850 to his Mormon father and pacific island mother. His father brought the family to San Bernardino and lived in the Mormon settlement located near what is now the Orange Show grounds. According to Lyman, his mother could not adapt to San Bernardino and returned to her native island. Frank stayed behind with his father and never saw his mother again. His father could not raise him so he was fostered by Mormon pioneers and founding members of San Bernardino, Louisa and Addison Pratt. Lyman listed numerous problems that the young Grouard caused the Pratt's.

At 15, Grouard took a job with McCarthy Freight as part of a 24-mile wagon train destined from San Bernardino to Montana.

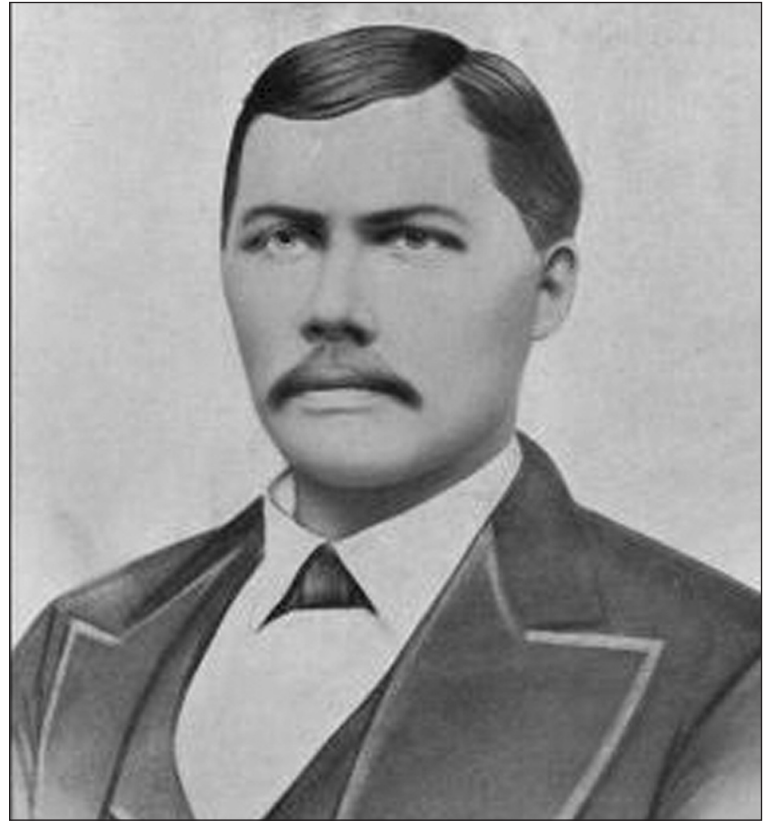


COURTESY PHOTO Crazy Horse

Grouard went on to live his full life that occurred on the fringes of the Civil War into the cusp of the modern era. Grouard learned the Sioux language and customs during his six years captive. Later as a scout for General George Crook, it was Grouard who tried to warn the naive U.S. Army that dangerous smoke signals meant trouble to Custer.

In Grouard's biography, DeBarthe verifies most of his book through government documents, first-hand interviews with General James A. Brisbin, from the numerous war reporters who traveled with Grouard, including Chicago Times correspondent John F. Fin-

erty who chronicled Grouard in his "Warpath and Bivouac" writings. DeBarthe studied the dispatches by Associated Press reporter Mark Kellogg who was also killed at Little Big Horn. Grouard was one of a handful who could get the Indians point of view. According to Army sources, Grouard once had in his possession 800 years worth of unbroken history on the Sioux Nation written in hieroglyphics. General Brisbin was commissioned as an archivist. He stated that without Grouard's stamp of approval that his own 1,000 page study would be lacking. Critics of Grouard say that some of his accounts are not fact.



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Frank Grouard (from his book *Life and Adventures*)

In "The Life and Adventures of Frank Grouard," Brisbin says that Grouard would not sell his Sioux collection for any sum of money. Brisbin spent years trying to change Grouard's "want of disposition to talk." Grouard's historical documents were eventually destroyed in a fire to his house in Fort McKinney, Wyoming in the mid-1880's. Brisbin said afterwards that Grouard, "Could have once and for all set at rest the recurring controversies touching the origins of the aborigine." Brisbin was quoted at the time, "Lost to the reading world in the fire was one of the most unique chapters in the history of the universe."

DeBarthe wrote in his book that, "Grouard whose acquaintance with the Indians was more extended than that of any who has ventured to speak on the subject." DeBarthe said that Grouard was the only man who could give a first-hand chronology of General George Crook and Crazy Horse. Though Crazy Horse later despised Grouard for his escape and betrayal, Grouard called Crazy Horse the bravest man of all--the Napoleon among Sioux. Grouard said that Sitting Bull once stopped Crazy Horse from killing him. The full text of the *The Life and Adventures of Frank Grouard* is available to read online.

Words to think about: Thomas Jefferson



By G. W. Abersold Ph.D

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), the third President of the United States, was and is one of my heroes. His intelligence with the breadth of his interests impress me. His interests included politics, philosophy, business, science, religion, farming, architecture, music, writing and law. What a remarkable man.

Two accomplishments of his included the writing of our Declaration of Independence and negotiating with France the sale of the Louisiana Purchase.

Anthony Dominick Benedetto,

better known as Tony Bennett was born on August 3, 1926, in New York City. I am one of his ardent fans. I like his style of singing and his artistic ability as an artist.

He was an infantryman with the U.S. Army during World War II. He implies being in deadly combat which made him a strong pacifist.

In his recent book, the title reflects Bennett's basic philosophy, *LIFE IS A GIFT*. In the very first page he says, "I rarely look back, I always look forward. . . I'm at peace with myself."

Dolly Parton. Or. Dr. Dolly Parton since giving her Commencement address at the University of Tennessee. She is known as "The Queen of Country Music" and has sold well over 100 million records and 177 million albums. She has starred in several movies and has won eight Grammys.

Her biography is a "rags to riches" story-from a hillbilly beginning to world-wide prominence. In her recent book she details her personal philosophy that "she has forged over the course of her astonishing career as a singer, songwriter, performer, and philanthropist.

In the book she details four great hopes she wants all to embrace: Dream more, Learn more, Care more and Be more.

Dolly is 67 years old, less than 5 feet tall, wears high heels and a large blond wig. Her bra size is a big secret. She has founded the Dollywood Foundation and Imagination Library. Read her book for her four wishes. My interpretation follows.

Webster's dictionary gives several definitions of a dream. Two of them are meaningful for most of us. One of them comes as an experience-real or imaginary-that comes to us while in a sleeping state. The second dream is an expectation, a goal, an ambition, a hope that compels us to achieve it.

Dolly has achieved most of her dreams.

Learning is a lifelong pursuit. It is accompanied by an innate curiosity. It is also realized in a structured environment or through individual intuitive.

Book learning is not the only type of learning. Dolly bears witness to that. Formal education was not for her. But educated, she is. She's learned from the school of hard knocks. From good and bad experiences. From successful experiences and from failures. So have we all.

Poverty and Religion are great motivators for philanthropy. Dolly grew up in abject poverty and the old time religion of Pentecostalism.

John Wesley, founder of Methodism, addressed his followers to make all they could, save all they could and give all they could. The Salvation Army, Goodwill, hospitals and schools were the result.

The keystone belief of Christianity is compassion for the needy. That means the homeless, food stamp users, the jobless, the sick

and afflicted, the elderly, the single parents, the widows, orphans and the illegals.

Victor Frankl's book, "Man's Search for Meaning" is about our need for self-realization; or as Dolly says, "to BE." Happy, real, honest, fulfilled, etc.

Amen. Selah. So be it.

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