

## Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum

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The Official Newsletter of the Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum

## March 2024

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## The Curious History of the Easter Rabbit

Before the glittery Valentines hearts have even left the store shelves, we are barraged with images of fuzzy chicks, colorful eggs and of course the Easter Rabbit.

But how did a rabbit become the mascot for a holiday to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus?

Although the exact origins of the Easter Rabbit are unknown, there are plenty of theories. One popular theory suggests that the hare was a symbol of an Anglo-Saxon deity of fertility and springtime, Eostre, but there is little to no evidence of this link.

Another suggests that since rabbit kits are born fully formed, they represent the rebirth of Jesus.

What is clear is that the tradition started in Germany. The tale goes that a poor mother hid decorated eggs in her garden for her children to find. When the last egg was discovered, a hare was spotted hopping away from the yard. The children believed that the hare must have laid the eggs for them.

This hare became known as the Osterhase, which translates to the Easter Hare. The earliest written accounts of this egg laying hare were found in a 16-page doctoral dissertation published in 1682.

Georg Franck von Franckenau, writing under the name, Johannes Richier, described the Osterhase in an essay titled “On Easter Eggs” that warned that the overconsumption of these eggs led to stomach aches.

It became a tradition for children to gather moss and flowers on Good Friday and construct a “nest” in their yard for the Easter Hare. This idea later evolved into the Easter baskets we see today.

It is believed that the folk tale of the Easter Hare was brought

to America in the 1700's, when German immigrants settled in the Pennsylvania Dutch country.

At some point after its introduction to the U.S. the Easter Hare became the Easter Rabbit and today is most often referred to as the Easter Bunny. Hares and rabbits, though similar, are two separate species. Both animals have a long history of symbolism, and it is speculated that this led to the name change.



## Fun Fact!

There are at least three operating "Easter Hare Post Offices" where volunteers receive and respond to letters and cards addressed to the Osterhase. The only other place that receives posts for the famous character is Easter Island for obvious reasons!

# Item Highlight

## Connecting Collections

Dollie Crewse  
1870-1958

James Holloway  
1858-1953

Floyd Holloway  
1900-1967

Thelma Lohr  
1906-1999

George Lohr  
1868-1939

Sophonria Martz  
1873-1960

In 1913, James Holloway and his wife, Dollie moved to Idaho from Conway Springs, Kansas. The family of thirteen lived in Filer, Hollister, and Hazelton before settling in Twin Falls

Thelma Lohr was born in 1906 during her family's move to Idaho from Missouri. She married Floyd Holloway in 1923 and together the couple had four children: Ila, Dollie, William, and Dale

Sophonria and George Lohr lived in Virginia, North Dakota, and Missouri before settling in the Knull area in 1906.

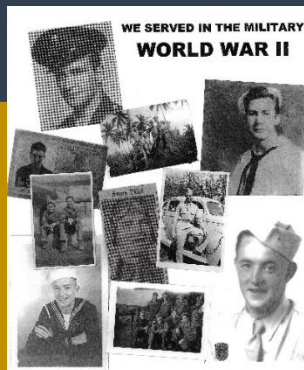


Fur muff and collarette that worn by Sophronia Lohr

John & Nellie Holloway

James L. Holloway  
1918-2013

James Lafayette Holloway served in the Army Airforce in World War II as a B-17 tail gunner. James authored *We Served in the Military World War II*, a compilation of the names and stories of Twin Falls County's servicemen and women available at the museum.



Dollie Holloway  
1927-2021

Verlin Williamson  
1926-1977

Dollie was born in Twin Falls in 1927. She attended Twin Falls High School, graduating in 1945 before attending Albion State Normal School to earn a teaching degree. She married Verlin Williamson in 1947. The couple had five children, Rodney, Deborah, Rebecca, Cynthia, and Kaye. Dollie taught school for many years at Murtagh, Lucerne, and Buhl.

Verlin's family moved from South Dakota to the Hazelton, Idaho area in 1939. He joined the US Navy in 1943 and served in the South Pacific for three years. He graduated Albion State Normal School and went on to have a long teaching career. He took two years off from teaching to pursue farming. In 1954, he and Dollie purchased a 40-acre farm in the Deep Creek area.

Baby dress worn by Dollie's daughters



Baby dress believed to have been worn by Dollie



# Donations

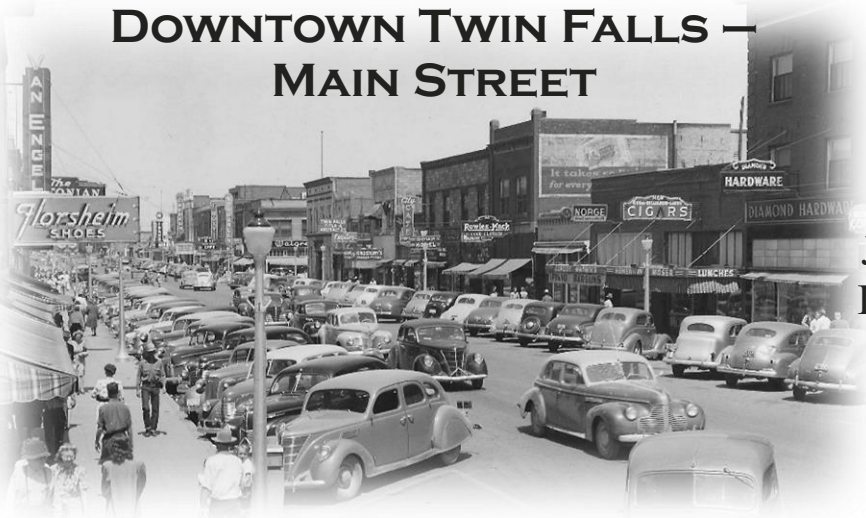
Ration stamp books, newspapers, books, Idaho Centennial bowtie, etc. donated by Dennis Bowyer in memory of Charles and Deon Bowyer



Photo of Main Street in Buhl donated by the Bannock County Historical Museum



## DOWNTOWN TWIN FALLS — MAIN STREET



## April Lecture! April 6<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm

Jennifer Hills of the Twin Falls Public Library will present the history behind the iconic buildings of Main Street.

For more info visit our website

[www.twinfallsmuseum.org](http://www.twinfallsmuseum.org)

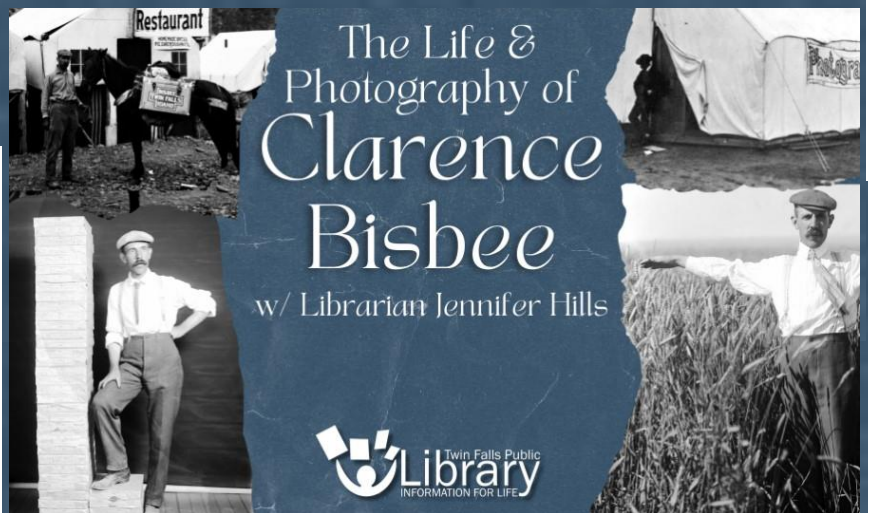


### The Life & Photography of Clarence Bisbee

You've seen his photos around town, now learn more about the man behind the images. On March 30th at 1:00 PM, Librarian Jennifer Hills will talk about local photographer Clarence Bisbee, some of his most significant photos, and the legacy he left to the Magic Valley and the state.

For more info visit

<https://www.twinfallspubliclibrary.org/>



## The Recipe's History

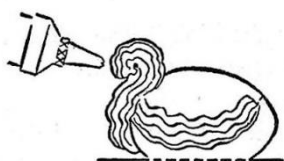
Versions of deviled egg recipes have existed since Roman times and can even be found in medieval cookbooks. The 1896 *Fannie Farmers Boston Cooking School Cook Book*, was the first known publication to use mayonnaise as a binder. Since mayonnaise was not commercially available until 1907, the idea was slow to catch on. It didn't become common in deviled egg recipes until the 1940's.

Today there are thousands of variations of the recipe. Below are instructions from the 1945 *Woman's Home Companion Cookbook* showing how to dress your eggs for Easter.

**Easter Chick:** Start with a shelled hard-cooked egg of the size desired. Cut off a thin slice lengthwise to make a flat base. From another hard-cooked egg take the yolk, mash it and mix in mayonnaise to make it soft and smooth. With a decorating tube filled with this mixture apply wings and head of chick.

Insert a small bit of nut for bill and a strip of pimento for the comb. With a pointed knife make a small slit at the tail end and insert a celery leaf or a piece of curled endive. (To curl endive, cut the tip of a single leaf in parallel slits about an inch deep and soak in ice water.)

Place the chick in a nest of water cress or shredded lettuce in the center of a salad platter or use for individual salads.



## Quilt Show!

Time to pull out your favorite quilts from that dusty trunk in the attic! The museum is planning to have a quilt show this June.

We are looking for quilts with local family history to display. Applications for temporary loans will be available soon!



## Egg Farci (Stuffed Eggs)

*-Fannie Farmer Boston Cooking-School Cook Book*

Cut hard boiled eggs in halves crosswise.

Remove yolks and put whites aside in pairs. Mash yolks and add equal amount of cooked chicken or veal, finely chopped.

Moisten with melted butter or Mayonnaise. Season to taste with salt, pepper, lemon juice, mustard, and cayenne. Shape, and refill whites.