

In portraying **Joe Vincent**, we built on fact. The events of his early life, travel, business and political careers are all true. The Sam Yup Company did hire Vincent (then Lewiston police judge) to investigate the killings at Deep Creek. We alter his age and his family life. In 1887, the real Joseph K. Vincent was 65. In 1888, he left Lewiston to run the Cottonwood hotel, then settled in Mount Idaho as a justice of the peace. He and Elizabeth Leland had 10 children. She survived his 1909 death. His place of burial is unknown.

Grace Sundown is fictional, but her life parallels that of several *métis* women leaders in the West, such as Helen Pioto powaka Clarke and Suzette LaFlesche Tibbles. We used historical research to create Grace's experiences at Lapwai, Missouri, Louisiana, Montana, and Oregon.

The historical **Lee Loi** left few records. Newspaper reports and government files connect him to the 1887-88 Deep Creek investigation. The Chinese Educational Mission of Hartford, Connecticut, was also real. We used historical research to present Lee's years in Canton, Hartford, New Haven, and San Francisco.

Little is known about the **Chinese miners**. Only ten of them were identified by name, indicating their origins in the districts in and around Canton (now Guangzhou). To recover their lives we drew upon historical research and consulted experts in Chinese language and custom.

Nell Vincent is fictional, though the Vincents had an infant daughter named Nellie.

Dow and **Yap** are also fictional, drawn from research on Chinese mining camps in Idaho.

As a boy **Jackson Sundown** (Waaya-Tonah-Toetsis-Kahn) fought in the Nez Perce War, escaped into Canada, and spent years in exile as a wanted man. After a return to Montana, he made a living as a horse breeder and champion rodeo rider. **Georges Sundown** is fictional.

We based **Henry Stanton** on one of Lewiston's earliest and most admired physicians, Henry Stainton (pronounced Stanton), a native of Devon and an Oxford graduate. We altered his frontier family life to include Grace. He did serve as mayor and coroner, and he helped arrange the treaty that established Lewiston on the Idaho shore.

Mary Stanton is fictional. The historical Mary Stainton had three children, and one of them, Robert, died from injuries sustained after a fall in 1884.

Alonzo Leland was a well-known editor and booster in the Northwest; we based our character on research in historical records and the *Lewiston Teller*.

Elisabeth Leland Vincent is fictional. Marriage and childbirth dates for the actual Elizabeth Leland indicate that she was pregnant before J. K. Vincent wed her on 24 December 1865—since Joseph S. Vincent was born on 24 April, 1866.

John Vollmer was the wealthiest man in North Idaho. He controlled business interests across the Pacific Northwest, and he helped to build railways to Lewiston. His wife's maiden name was Sallie Bingham. Their daughter Evangeline died in childhood, despite Dr. Stainton's care. After the Deep Creek trial, John Vollmer contracted smallpox, but he lived to drive an electric car on Lewiston streets.

Bruce (Blue) Evans led the Deep Creek killers. Born in West Virginia, he followed the Oregon Trail and arrived in northeast Oregon in 1879. He probably killed the outlaw Tom Douglas for a stash of gold. After the Chinese massacre Evans was arrested and jailed in Joseph, Oregon, but he escaped and disappeared.

James Tigh Canfield was from Indiana and lived near Evans on Pine Creek. He and Evans may have hatched the plan to kill the Chinese miners. He was said to have vanished into Montana.

Homer LaRue was indicted for murder but never captured or reliably located.

Hiram Maynard also lived on Pine Creek and worked for Evans. He was indicted for murder, tried, and acquitted at the September, 1888 trial in Enterprise, Oregon.

Hezekiah Hughes, also known as Carl, came from Kentucky. He too was indicted, tried, and acquitted at Enterprise.

Robert McMillan was fifteen in 1887. He was acquitted at Enterprise and soon after died of diphtheria. To his father, Robert confessed to witnessing the massacre, but not to taking part.

Frank Vaughan lived near Evans on Pine Creek. He turned state's evidence against the other killers but later shifted blame to Evans, Canfield, and LaRue. After the trial, he lived in the Wallowa region many years before moving to California.

Senator **Slater**, Governor **Pennoyer**, Judge **O'Sullivan**, Frank **McCully** and Thomas **Humphreys** are all historical, like the Lewiston merchants Robert **Grostein** and Abe **Binnard**.

Pronunciation Guide

Nez Perce: Nez PURSE

Nimipu: Nee-MEE-Pu

Métis: MAY-tee or May-TEE

Lapwai: Lap-WAY