

## Places & Stories--The Outlaw Trail--Utah

### UTAH

1866-1884, 1889, 1896, 1897

#### Beaver, Utah

Robert Leroy Parker (alias "Butch Cassidy") was born to a Utah Mormon family in [Beaver, Utah](#) on April 13, 1866. He was the oldest of 13 children, and was named after his two grandfathers. Both were named Robert.

Robert (Bob) Leroy Parker's parents were Maximilian and Ann Gillies Parker. Maximilian's father Robert was from Lancashire, England. He worked in a textile mill. He married Ann Hartley Parker, young Bob's grandmother.

The elder Robert was converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in England. To Robert, America beckoned. The voyage across the ocean took six weeks. The time was 1856. Maximilian was twelve years old. The Parker family traveled to Utah on a Mormon handcart expedition.

Bob's mother, Ann Gillies, and her family, also joined the Mormon religion from their native country of Scotland. They came to America and journeyed to Utah by wagon train. They narrowly beat the Utah winter.

#### Circleville, Utah

Maximilian, Butch's father, carried the mail on horseback. He soon became enamored of Circle Valley near Beaver. He decided to move the family there. The family Homestead still stands today near [Circleville, Utah](#).

Ann Parker, Butch's mother, was a devout Mormon. Maximilian was less so. Young Bob Parker seemed to follow his father's lead. He was less interested in following the Church's path than his religious mother. Bob worked as a cowboy at some of the area ranches in his early teens. He hired on at the Marshall Ranch near the Circle Valley Homestead. According to his sister, Lula, Bob met someone who was to become an influence on the young boy. His name was Mike Cassidy, some considered him an outlaw.

The cowboys were adept at small-time rustling and altering brands. Bob Parker appeared to be finding out there were easier ways to make a dollar than the long, grueling hours of being a cowboy. He acquired another skill that would define his future. He learned to use a gun.

Bob Parker left home when he was 18 years old. The stage may have been set as to his new career. Robert Leroy Parker rode out of Circleville, Utah and into history.

#### Brown's Park, Utah

A posse tracked the [Telluride](#) Robbers to [Brown's Park](#), near Vernal, Utah. Brown's Park was so remote that it was described as nothing but sagebrush, wild horses, and rattlesnakes.

Bob Parker (Butch) hired on at the Bassett Ranch in Brown's Park in the fall of 1889. He was still on the run from the law for the Telluride robbery earlier that year.

Butch returned to Brown's Park after his release from the [Wyoming Territorial Prison](#) in 1896. He renewed friendships with Matt Warner and Elzy Lay. The outlaws found Brown's Park attractive. They like the isolation and proximity to state borders. Only a few passageways led in and out of the park.

### **Robbers Roost, Utah**

Following the Montpelier, Idaho bank robbery in August 1896, Butch and Elzy Lay rode for **Robbers Roost** in Southern Utah to lie low. One of their hideouts was near a clear stream, known as the Robbers Roost Spring. It's near the town of Hanksville, Utah. Robbers Roost was hard, desolate country. The landscape was barren and unforgiving with little water. A maze of ghostly canyons stretch for miles upon stark miles ending at the horizon. Rustlers and outlaws could easily disappear as if vanishing illusions. Riders left the Roost in April 1897. Their intent was to rob the Castle Gate Coal Mine near Price, Utah. The riders included Butch Cassidy and Elzy Lay.

### **Castle Gate, Utah**

The **Castle Gate** Coal Mine, near Price, Utah, was a large mining operation with an enticing payroll. History would record a daring daylight robbery here on April 21, 1897. It was pay day at the mine. The payroll arrived by train. Miners were waiting for paychecks. Robbers stole the payroll at gunpoint. They escaped. Seven thousand dollars was stolen. The outlaws cut telegraph wires and raced for Robbers Roost.

## **Places & Stories--The Outlaw Trail--The West**

### **THE WEST**

**1884-1889, 1892-1900**

### **COLORADO**

#### **Telluride, Colorado**

Bob Parker arrived in the mining town of Telluride, Colorado in 1884. There he met another young Utah cowboy, Matt Warner. Telluride was flush with money from the booming mining industry. Much of the wealth was stockpiled in the San Miguel Valley Bank. The bank was robbed at gunpoint on June 24, 1889. Historians believe the robbers were Tom McCarty, Matt Warner, Robert Leroy Parker, and a fourth man. A posse tracked the Telluride robbers to Brown's Park near Vernal, Utah. There the outlaws split up and escaped.

### **WYOMING**

#### **Sundance, Wyoming**

Sundance, Wyoming sits near the shadow of the famous landmark, the Devil's Tower. Harry Longabaugh (alias "the Sundance Kid") was brought for trial to Sundance for stealing a horse, saddle and pistol from the Three V Ranch in Northeast Wyoming in February 1887. He served an 18-month sentence in the Sundance Jail. When he was released, he had a new nickname, "The Sundance Kid."

#### **Hole-In-The Wall, Wyoming**

Butch worked a small ranch on Blue Creek near Kaycee, Wyoming. The ranch is near the famous outlaw hideout, Hole-In-The Wall. Rustlers and outlaws used the narrow "V" passage because of its remoteness and secrecy.

#### **Rock Springs, Wyoming**

As the story goes, Butch worked for a butcher shop in Rock Springs, Wyoming. He may have learned to butcher from his expertise as a rustler. The nickname stuck. He became "Butch Cassidy."

## **Laramie, Wyoming**

Butch and a man by the name of Al Hainer were arrested for horse stealing in April 1892. The two were hunted down in Star Valley, Wyoming. Butch Cassidy, under the name of George Cassidy, was found guilty of stealing a horse. He was sentenced to the Wyoming Territorial Prison in Laramie beginning July 15, 1894. Butch's [mug shot](#) as he entered prison is one of the few authenticated photographs that exist. His birth place was listed falsely as New York City. Butch was sentenced to two years of hard labor. He was paroled six months early on January 19, 1896. He returned to Brown's Park, Utah.

The Laramie Prison was built in 1872. It was used until 1903.

## **Wilcox, Wyoming**

Outlaw gangs looked at trains as easy marks. Historian Richard Patterson describes the method used in the 1870s: "The trains were usually halted by loosening a rail, stacking ties or logs on the tracks, or signaling the engineer with a fake emergency." All that changed with the use of dynamite.

Robbers stopped Union Pacific's Overland Flyer on June 2, 1899. The location was near Wilcox, Wyoming north of Laramie. The time was 2:18 a.m. They went to the express car. E.C. Woodcock was ordered to open the door. He refused. Outlaws blew up the car with dynamite. Woodcock was stunned but not seriously hurt. The outlaws made off with about \$30,000. The robbers split up. One group shot it out with a pursuing posse led by Sheriff Josiah Hazen. Sheriff Hazen was killed in the gunfight. Hazen was extremely well-respected. His funeral was a big event in Douglas, Wyoming. The outlaws received national fame. They were identified as Harvey "Kid Curry" Logan, George "Flat Nose" Currie, and Harvey's brother, Lonny Logan. The robbers escaped.

## **Tipton, Wyoming**

The date was August 29, 1900. Butch Cassidy was 34 years old. The place was Tipton, Wyoming. The Union Pacific Number 3 from Omaha was stopped by robbers. The express car was blown open with dynamite. The clerk was the same E.C. Woodcock from the Wilcox train robbery. Mounted posses were dispatched by Union Pacific. The outlaws escaped on a fresh relay of horses left before the robbery.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA, 1897**

Outlaws rode in to Belle Fourche, South Dakota on June 28, 1897. Belle Fourche means "beautiful fork" in French. The town was named for the river that runs through it. Suspected members of Cassidy's gang entered the bank. Outlaws robbed the bank. They made off with less than \$100.

## **NEW MEXICO, 1897-1899**

After the 1897 Belle Fourche, South Dakota bank robbery, Butch Cassidy may have decided the time was right to allow things to cool down. Butch Cassidy and Elzy Lay rode in to the WS Ranch in Alma, New Mexico. The ranch was owned by William French. Butch used the name Jim Lowe. Elzy was William McGinness. Rancher William French thought highly of the man he knew as Jim Lowe. In a letter, French praised Jim's skill in driving cattle to the railhead.

Pinkerton detective Charles Siringo described Alma, New Mexico as "a store, a saloon, and a pair of dry-rotting hitching posts." Pinkerton was on the trail of the two riders. They riders had a string of

saddle horses. Money from the Wilcox robbery was tracked to the Alma, New Mexico store. The money was identified from being torn as it was blown out of the safe by dynamite. Butch Cassidy left Alma, New Mexico.

A train was robbed near Folsom, New Mexico on July 18, 1899. A posse tracked the outlaws and a gunfight took place. Sheriff Edward Farr was killed. Elzy Lay was captured. He was booked under the name William McGinnis. This was the alias he used in Alma, New Mexico. He received a life sentence in October 1899. Elzy was released from prison in January 1906. He remarried and went straight. He died in 1934.

## **TEXAS, 1900**

The outlaws arrived in the notorious "Hell's Half Acre" in Fort Worth, Texas in November 1900. "Hell's Half Acre" was a red-light district known for its brothels and saloons. Five outlaws posed for a photograph at the studio of John Schwartz. The Sundance Kid Harry Longbaugh, Will Carver, Ben "The Tall Texan" Kilpatrick, Harvey "Kid Curry" Logan, and Butch Cassidy sat for the photographer. The [photo](#) proved to be a mistake for the outlaws. Authorities soon discovered it. They had photographic images of each outlaw.

## **NEW YORK, 1901, 1902**

Butch and Sundance decided [Argentina](#) was the place for a new start. Sundance took Ethel to meet his family in Mont Clare, Pennsylvania. They traveled by train. He told his family of plans for Argentina. He introduced Ethel as his wife. Sundance and Ethel traveled on to New York. Sundance visited Dr. Pierce's Health Clinic in Buffalo, New York. Some speculate they had venereal disease. No records have turned up to prove it.

Sundance and Ethel registered at Mrs. Taylor's Boarding House in New York City on February 1, 1901. They registered as Mr. and Mrs. Harry Place. Place was Sundance's mother's maiden name. Butch Cassidy joined them in New York. He registered at the boarding house as James Ryan.

Butch bought a watch at Tiffany's on February 4, 1901. He paid \$40.10. Butch signed the Tiffany's register as "James Ryan." Sundance and Ethel had their [photograph](#) taken at the DeYoung Studio on Broadway. Ethel has a lapel watch pinned to her dress.

Butch, Sundance, and Ethel left for Argentina by steamship in February 1901. Some argue Butch went later. Pinkerton National Detective Agency files show Sundance and Ethel sailing back to the United States. Sundance was evidently having health problems. According to Pinkerton files, he checked in to a New York hospital. They returned to Argentina in late summer 1902.

## **Places & Stories--The Outlaw Trail--Argentina & Bolivia**

### **ARGENTINA 1901-1905**

#### **Buenos Aires, Argentina**

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Butch, Sundance and Ethel ("Etta") Place left for Argentina by steamship in February in 1901. Some argue Butch came later. According to Pinkerton files and Argentine documents, Butch, Sundance and Etta arrived in Buenos Aires by late March 1901.

A train robbery took place back in the United States on July 3, 1901 in Wagner, Montana. The robbery was most likely led by Harvey "Kid Curry" Logan. The outlaws made off with about \$40,000 after dynamiting the train safe. Butch's family received reports that he may have been at Wagner.

### **Cholila, Argentina**

Argentina was a place of opportunity. Argentine gauchos were like cowboys of the American West. The landscape was similar. It was a well-known cattle center. Argentine railroads put out enticing stories on Argentina. Argentina looked like the West. It was far away from lawmen in the United States.

Butch registered for land in Buenos Aires on April 2, 1902. Butch used the alias James Ryan. Sundance was Harry A. Place. The location of the ranch was in southern Argentina, near Cholila in the territory of Chubut. **Pinkerton National Detective Agency** files show Sundance and Ethel sailing back to the United States. According to Pinkerton files, Sundance checked into a New York hospital. They returned to Argentina in late summer 1902.

Butch wrote a letter to Mathilda Davis on August 10, 1902. Mathilda Davis was the mother-in-law of his good friend Elzy Lay. In the letter, he wrote of his 300 cattle, 1,500 sheep, 28 saddle horses and two men to do his work.

Pinkerton agent Frank DiMaio was dispatched to South America. He was to locate the outlaws. He soon found out about the Cholila Ranch. Wanted posters were circulated in Spanish. Argentine authorities were warned of the American outlaws' presence. Sundance and Ethel again traveled to the States in April 1904. They returned to Argentina late in the year.

The bank of Rio Gallegos in southern Argentina was robbed by reportedly North American bandits. The date was February 1905. Argentine police suspected Butch and Sundance. Most Historians agree they were not at the Rio Gallegos bank robbery. Knowledge they were once again wanted likely caused Butch, Sundance and Ethel to give up their life in the Cholila Valley. Butch and Sundance sold their Cholila Ranch. They left for Chile.

The old ranch house still stands in the Cholila Valley, in the foothills of the Andes Mountains.

### **BOLIVIA, 1906-1908**

By 1906, Butch and Sundance were working at the Concordia Tin Mine. It's in the Central Bolivian Andes some seventy-five miles from La Paz. Much of what is known about Butch and Sundance at this time came from Percy Seibert. Seibert was a north American mining engineer. He worked at Concordia. Butch and Sundance used the aliases James "Santiago" Maxwell and Harry "Enrique" Brown. According to Seibert, the outlaws eventually befriended him. They revealed their true

identities. Butch and Sundance took a trip to Santa Cruz, Bolivia. They were possibly looking for another ranch. Butch wrote a letter to "The Boys at Concordia" on November 12, 1907.

### **Tupiza, Bolivia**

Historians believe Butch and Sundance went to the mining town of Tupiza in Southern Bolivia. The journey to Tupiza begins in heavily populated La Paz. The altitude is more than 12,000 feet. It's a seventeen-hour jeep ride from La Paz.

The date was November 4, 1908. The payroll of the Aramayo Mining Company of Tupiza was held up by two reportedly North American bandits. The payroll was transported by an employee of the company named Carlos Pero. His young son and a servant were with him. Pero was walking, the others rode mules. The story is based upon his written testimony as uncovered by historians Daniel Buck and Anne Meadows.

Pero picked up the payroll at the Aramayo mansion, which sits on the bank of the Tupiza River. He was to deliver it to Aramayo's headquarters at Quechisla. It was a three-day journey. They overnights at the Aramayo Hacienda at Salo. Today, the Hacienda has been converted to a school. Only a small part of the older structure still exists.

Carlos Pero and his companions reached a remote area called Huaca Huanusca or "Dead Cow Hill." They were confronted by two armed robbers. Letters to Aramayo Mine officials have been found by Daniel Buck and Anne Meadows. In these letters, Carlos Pero described how the robbers held them at gunpoint, took the payroll and a mule, then released Pero, his son, and servant.

### **San Vicente, Bolivia**

The small village of San Vicente lies at the foot of the Bolivian Andes. The altitude is about 14,500 feet. Today, San Vicente is a jarring five-hour jeep ride from Tupiza. The road twists and turns around hairpin curves with plunging cliffs.

The date was November 6, 1908. Two men rode into the village of San Vicente, Bolivia. The two men rode mules. Mules were used in high altitudes instead of horses because they more easily acclimate to thin air. One of the mules was the Aramayo mule stolen in the robbery.

The two men stopped for the night. Word of the Aramayo robbery spread quickly. A company of three soldiers and one policeman arrived in San Vicente earlier in the day. The two men asked the local mayor for food and lodging. The mayor directed one of the villagers to supply a room for them. The mayor described the two men ordering a supper of sardines and beer.

Soldiers entered the house. One soldier was immediately shot and killed by the two men. Eyewitness Remigio Sanchez was a local miner who testified on the shootout: "The captain entered with a soldier, and then all of us entered and found the smaller gringo stretched out on the floor, dead, with one bullet wound in the temple and another in the arm. The taller one was hugging a large ceramic jug that was in the room. He was dead also with a bullet wound in the forehead and several in the arm."

The Aramayo payroll was found among the dead bandits' belongings. They were well-armed. The two men were buried in the San Vicente Cemetery. Carlos Pero was asked to identify the robbers. The bodies were exhumed shortly after burial. Pero identified the dead outlaws as the ones who had robbed him. The names of the bandits could not be confirmed.

A team led by forensic anthropologist Clyde Snow attempted to exhume the bodies of the dead outlaws in 1991. The grave site was identified by local legend to be that of the outlaws. It actually held the body of a German miner.

Historians Daniel Buck and Anne Meadows still believe Butch and Sundance are buried somewhere in the San Vicente Cemetery.

Members of Butch's family dispute the San Vicente account. Butch's sister Lula wrote of Butch coming back to visit the family in 1925, seventeen years after the shootout. Lula wrote of a black Ford pulling up to the Circleville Homestead. In it was Leroy Parker. Other Parker family members had differing opinions and versions of what happened to Butch.

Josie Bassett and several others also told of seeing Butch Cassidy in later years. Josie said Butch and Elzy Lay visited her on two occasions after the South America shootout. Complicating the story were imposters roaming the West who claimed to be Butch Cassidy. Some who told truthful stories of seeing Butch may have been fooled.