

The Story of Silverheels

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Introduction

It is 1861, in a town called Buckskin Joe's in South Park in the Rocky Mountains, there is an unnamed girl who they called Silverheels. Silverheels was a dancer at the towns dance hall. She was known to be the most beautiful girl in all the land when she took off her veil, this led her to be one of the most famous dancers at Buckskin Joe. All of the miners fell in love with her. One day two shepherders came to Buckskin Joe And gave all the miners smallpox. All the woman and the children fled from town, but not Silverheels.

It was said that Silverheels stayed to help the miners because she was thankful for all they did for her. She stayed and helped the miners until one day she herself got smallpox. It was said that smallpox melted away her beauty, so she left town not wanting anyone to see her. One day the miners who she helped wanted to give her a gift, but they found that she was not at her home. The miners still wanted to pay their respects and so they named a mountain after her.

Who was Silverheels

Silverheels was a young lady who wanted to be a famous dancer, she got a job at Billy Buck's saloon and became widely known because of her beauty. She got her name because one day a miner who had fallen in love made her a pair of slippers that had silver heels on them trying ¹ to win over her heart. She lived in a cabin across from the main part of town.

Silverheels was a hidden girl not because of choice, The owner of the dancehall did not want her to tell everyone who she was because he was "worried for her safety". This was false the reason why he let her stay in one of his cabins without pay was that he didn't want her to

¹Adam, James,.Jones: Silverheels.
Virginia, mcConnel, Simmons: Silverhees.
Tara, Meixsell: A Historica Novell

become too famous or get a better job. If either of the things happened she would not be able to work and the dance hall would lose business.

She had moved to Buckskin Joe's by herself without a husband or any family.

Silverheels also never told anyone her name so people started calling her Silverheels. There is no real name for Silverheels. After Silverheels vanished there was no trace of her and they never found her body, but it is said that you can see a girl in a veil standing by old miners graves at the Buckskin Joe's cemetery.

What made Silverheels so different?

Silverheels was not like the other girls at Buckskin Joe's, in 1861 and not just because of her beauty. Silverheels was known to be the most beautiful girl in all the land but she also knew how to give the men what they want. It was said that most girls envied her because the men would tip her more, this is because she would find out what the miners liked when she danced and then did what they wanted.

Silverheels was also special because she was one of the few women who stayed while the men were sick. Altho she knew that staying to help the sick men could lead her to be sick herself she stayed. She was said to stay because she felt it was her turn to give back to the men that had already given her so much. She felt like she owed the miners for giving money and fame just as she wanted. Altho this did lead to Silverheels getting smallpox herself.

How was Buckskin Joe introduced to smallpox?

Buckskin Joe's contracted smallpox from two sheep headers that came to Buckskin Joe's to sell there because they needed money to buy tools to mine gold. A miner bought their sheep

and got the illness. The miner spread it to other miners and got most of the town sick, that's why most women took their children left their husbands.

Why where the shepherders At Buckskin Joe²?

1861 was the year of Pikes Peak gold rush, the shepherders came to strike it rich. The ³ shepherders did not have smallpox but they were carrying it in their systems this is why when the ⁴miner bought the sheep he got smallpox. The shepherders wanted to sell their sheep for money to buy tools so that they could mine. Like most people, the shepherders did not strike it rich and most likely went back home or died.

Where did Silverheels go?

No one ever found where Silverheels went or where she died. When the miners came to give her thanks for helping them when they were sick, they did not find her. The miners looked all around Buckskin Joe for Silverheels but never found her. No one would ever see Silverheels again.

To this day no one has ever found Silverheels' body. Most people of the town believed she fled town so she didn't catch smallpox or that she had smallpox and did not want to give anyone them so she left to go die in the mountains. Nevertheless, the miners were so determined to find a way to thank Silverheels for all the thing she did to help them.

Why did Silverheels leave?

² Adam, James,.Jones: Silverheels.
Virginia, mcConnel, Simmons: Silverhees.
Melody, Hawkins: the legion of Silverheels
Tara, Meixsell: A Historica Novell
³Melody, Hawkins: the legion of Silverheels
Tara, Meixsell: A Historica Novell
⁴Kathy, wiser: Buckskin Joe Colorado

Many people of the town believed that Silverheels left town before she got smallpox or that she was sick and died but was never found. Both can be true but the story that is told most often is that Silverheels got smallpox and they melted away her beauty. She was so ashamed of her ugly and scarred face that she left town so that none of the miners could see her in such a bad way. Now any of these stories may be correct But we will never really know because after she left there was no trace of her.

There was no proof that Silverheels went on and moved to a different town. There is also no body of Silverheels. After she left her cabin in Buckskin Joe she was gone. The truth is she most likely got smallpox and didn't want to infect everyone else so she just went to the woods and died.

The final thank you.

The determined miners who had fallen in love with the beautiful and kind Silverheels would not go on without thanking her. Since Silverheels was nowhere to be found the miners came up with a grand idea. They decided that the only way for Silverheels to know how much appreciated her was to name a mountain after her. Henceforth Mount Silverheels.

Mount Silverheels is 85.0 miles away from Buckskin Joe's. Mount Silverheels also has the elevation of 13,829. It was said they picked this mountain because it was the most beautiful mountain there was. The miners couldn't just pick a mountain and name it this would turn into long process.

Conclusion

This is about a girl who was not always so nice and kind. She started off being a golddigger who just wanted to be rich and famous, but one day something happen and she could have left and saved herself yet she did not. She stayed and helped the ones who had once helped her dreams. The triumph of this story is that she helped man sick men and the tragedy of this story is that a altho she helped people she got ill. Yet, the people who she helped did not just let it go when she left they found a better way to say thanks so everyone knew how thankful they were for ⁵Silverheels.

Silverheels was a kind girl who worked for what she wanted and always put other people in front of herself. Silverheels Put helped the sick and week although this led to her being sick and week. The miners show that they did care about all the things she had done by a mountain after her. This story started with a girl who just wanted to be famous then turning int to a story that shows how even if you do good things bad things may happen but that doesn't mean that the good that you did was for nothing.

Silverheels wasn't always so good. Most of the other woman said she was a golddigger because Silverheels would dance better the more money you had. It was also said that Silverheels had a husband but he got sick and she left him. This may have been why Silverheels did not leave the miners to die. This also explained why she was unmarried as she was already in her twenties.

⁵mt.silverheels
Melody, Hawkins: the legion of Silverheels
Tara, Meixsell: A Historica Novell
Melody, Hawkins: the legion of Silverheels

The triumph of the story is that she didn't leave the men to stay sick. She also got a mountain named after her. The tragedy of the story is that even though she stayed to help the men she got smallpox. This story shows that if you do good and still have a bad life it's ok because someone somewhere does appreciate it. I chose this story because it is about a girl in Colorado and I want more people to know about her.

Annotated Bibliography

Secondary sources

adamjamesjones. "Silverheels." *Adam James Jones*. Adam James Jones, 20 Dec. 2014.

Web. 28 Feb. 2019.><https://adamjamesjones.wordpress.com/2011/05/04/silverheels/>

I used this site to find out who Silverheels was and more about her story. I also used it fo find backstory about what was going on in Buckskin Joe during 1861.

This source was very well and I used it throughout the whole essay. This source helped me understand what was really happening.

"Buckskin Joe, Colorado – Gone & Back and Gone Again – Legends of America."

Legendsofamerica.com. N.p., 2010. Web. 28 Feb.

2019.><https://www.legendsofamerica.com/co-buckskinjoe/>

I used this website because I wanted to know more about Buckskin Joe and what it was like during the gold rush. This sigh helped me understand the setting of Buckskin Joe and what it looked like. This site really set up what it would be like in 1861 at Buckskin Joe.

"IMPOA." *Impoa.net*. N.p., 2019. Web. 28 Feb.

2019.><http://www.impoa.net/info.php?pnum=16>

I used this website to find out how the miners got sick mainly. I did use this website over the whole essay but very little. This story also helped get the basic of Silverheels story.

melodie. "Ghost Story #3: The Legend of Silver Heels." *Blogspot.com*. N.p., 2011. Web.
28 Feb.

2019.><http://lunawellnesscenter.blogspot.com/2011/10/ghost-story-3-legends-of-silver-heels.html>

This story helped me understand who Silverheels really was as a person and how she acted. This story also helped me when I was writing about where she went because it went into how people claim to see a ghost at the cemetery.

Mobley, Jeannie. "Frequently Asked Questions about Searching For Silverheels"

Jeanniemobley.com. Mcelderry Books, 2014. Sep. 2014

I used this website/book to start off my research. It was very helpful when it came to finding out if the story was real and small details that helped start my research. This site also helped me get a feel of what Silverheels was like in some very small ways.

MacKell,Jan. *Brothels, Bordellos, and Bad Girls Prostitution in Colorado 1860-1930*. New Mexico: University of New Mexico Press, 2004. Print.

I used this book to find out who Siverheels was before he was a kind and loving women who helped the sick. This book provides information on how she wan not always the sweetest and how in some ways, was a bad person.

"Summit Up 10-27-12: The Legend of Lady Silverheels." *Summitdaily.com*. N.p., 2017.

Web. 28 Feb.

2019.><https://www.summitdaily.com/news/summit-up-10-27-12-the-legend-of-lady-silverheels/>

This website I used to put in more detail and use it when I needed to add on to certain things. This especially helped when it was talking about when she left and why she left.

“14ers.Com • 13er Mt. Silverheels.” *14ers.com*. N.p., 2019. Web. 28 Feb. 2019.><https://www.14ers.com/13ers/peak.php?peakkey=620>

I used this website to find more basic information on Mt.Silverheel