

Background of the McGee and Hainer Correspondence

The following scanned letters from Pat and Ken Hainer to Bernice and Jack McGee were written in response to an article that appeared in True West Magazine, March-April 1966. The article was entitled "Invitation to a Ghost Walk".

The article told the story of Peralta Stone Maps. An earlier article, June 1964, had appeared in Life magazine that told of the search for the Peralta treasure by a Travis Marlowe (Actually Clarence Mitchell). Marlowe then wrote a book in 1965 entitled "Superstition Treasures" in which photographs of the Peralta stones were shown to the public for the first time.

The McGees were aware of these articles and Clarence Mitchell contacted them and wanted to meet. The McGee's met the Mitchells in the spring of 1965 on a trip to Arizona. It was then that Clarence took them on the tour of where he believed the stone maps led. This tour would be the basis of the article "Invitation to a Ghost Walk".

Pat and Ken Hainer read the article and recognized the Stone Maps that they had seen in 1959 near Hood River, Oregon in the possession of Travis Tumlinson. Pat wrote a letter to the editor of True West magazine who then passed it on to Bernice.

The letters are those that survived with the first letter in 1966 and the last in 1976. The letters that Bernice sent to the Hainers have not survived so we have only a one sided correspondence.

In 1973, the McGees wrote another article for Frontier Times Magazine entitled "Are the Peralta Stone Maps a Hoax?" In that article Bernice used a lot of information provided by the Hainers in this correspondence.

Note:

There is one recurring theme from Pat Hainer that she maintains throughout the correspondence. She believed that Travis Marlowe was Travis's unnamed uncle. From her viewpoint and what the Tumlinsons shared with her, that is what fit. We now know that Robert Tumlinson was the Uncle and Travis Marlowe was Clarence Mitchell who was unrelated to the Tumlinsons.

Bernice McGee did track down Pat in 2007 but she had new interests and the old map story held little interest.

Garry and Carol Cundiff – February 27, 2011