

# FROME COUNTY REPORTER

LIBERTY, FROME COUNTY, NEVADA.

## THE STORY OF OUTLAW HIRAM CHAPIN

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## HIRAM CHAPIN'S EARLY LIFE

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Hiram Chapin was born in Franklyn in 1844. His family left Franklyn when he was young (reputedly because of thuggery and general pissing-off of the locals) and moved east to Wide Gulch.

After working as a cowboy for a time, he came to notoriety when he, and some friends, unsuccessfully tried to rob North Farm (a farm near to Sweetwater). Chased by a posse, he initially scarpered to a friend in Browning, and then on to Stubville. Things quietened down, and he returned to Wide Gulch, and kept a very low profile.

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### 1875 SPRING IN HUBBARDTON

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Chapin visited Hubbardton, with an eye to mischief and cultivating contacts. It is thought that he recruited Michael Judd, a gunfighter, at this time.

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### 1875 SUMMER THE HUBBARDTON TRAIN ROBBERY

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Chapin and Judd decided to rob a train as it passed through Hubbardton, heading out of the County. Judd took on the express agent, who he easily overpowered. Chapin and Judd then robbed passengers and stole the mail. They were heavily disguised and were not recognised.

The alarm was raised and a posse set off in pursuit. It consisted of Sheriff George Conoly, Manfred Percel, Will Miller, and Simon Price, all from Hubbardton.

The chase was long and hard. Chapin was off like a shot, leaving Judd trailing behind. The two of them rapidly pulled away from the townsfolk, but the Sheriff was harder to shift. At one point Conoly was almost in range, but gradually the outlaws distanced themselves from him, heading for Amityville, and on to the safety of Wide Gulch.

Whilst at Wide Gulch Chapin recruited John Howard, a 51 year old criminal.

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### 1875 FALL RAID ON HALFORD'S FERRY DRY GOODS STORE (07)

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In the Autumn of 1875 Chapin, Judd, and Howard headed to Halford's Ferry to rob the Dry Goods Store.

At the time of the raid Sheriff Tom Brown was in the Sheriff's Office. David

Dickinson and Mary Jones were in the Grocery Store, along with Will Wheeler (a prospector). Ben Callagan was outside the Longhorn Saloon. Mr Snider in the Gold Star Saloon, very drunk, hiding from Mrs Snider, who was outside the Gold Star Saloon, looking for Mr Snider.

Chapin and Howard entered the Dry Goods Store and held it up. Judd stayed outside, with the horses, mounted. Chapin and Howard left the store, carrying the money. They were spotted and the alarm was raised.

Callagan and Wheeler hid in the Longhorn Saloon and the Grocery Store, respectively. Mr Snider remained in a drunken stupor in the Gold Star Saloon.

Jones and Mrs Snider moved towards the Dry Goods Store. Judd and Mrs Snider exchanged fire, both missing. Judd fumbled to reload.

Sheriff left the Sheriff's Office and fires his scattergun at Howard, who ducked back into the cover of the Dry Goods Store for a second, then rushes out to his horse. The Sheriff wounded him in the leg.

Chapin mounted his horse and headed north out of town, across open country, followed by Judd. They made it away safely, unlike Howard, who was shot in the leg by Mrs Snider, and captured.

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### 1875 WINTER KEEPING LOW IN WIDE GULCH

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Chapin and Judd returned to Wide Gulch and spent the winter there, keeping a low profile. Chapin and Judd were now wanted men in Halford's Ferry, Fork, and the Wallinger Ranch.

Chapin paid Judd and himself, and put some money to one side for Howard.

Howard, now in Halford's Ferry's jail, recovered from his wound. He was to be tried Fall 1876.

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### 1876 SPRING MUCH BOREDOM IN STEAMING ROCK

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Chopin and Judd mooched round Steaming Rock, looking for opportunities for theft, without success.

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### 1876 SUMMER HOWARD'S AWAY FROM HALFORD'S FERRY? (09)

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It is a boring day in Halford's Ferry. The only thing happening of any interest is the sale in the Dry Goods Store. This is one of

many sales the store has run, trying to recover its business after the successful raid by the Chapin Gang in the autumn of the year before. Sheriff Brown and Deputy Cavanagh are in the shop chatting to Mr Snider who is, unusually, quite sober. Looking out the window Mr Snider sees his wife approaching; he grabs his hat and shotgun, mutters a goodbye and scurries out of the store and across the street towards the Longhorn Saloon. Brown and Cavanagh exchange glances, both wondering how much alcohol he will be able to consume before Mrs Snider extracts him from the Longhorn.

Sheriff Brown decides to leave too. Picking up his scattergun he heads towards the Sheriff's Office. He wants to check on outlaw John Howard, who has been locked up in the jail since he was captured during the Chapin raid. Howard is awaiting trial in the autumn, a full year since the robbery; the wheels of justice move slowly in Frome County. The sheriff doffs his cap to Mrs Snider as they pass in the street. She doesn't look happy; she has spotted her husband heading for the saloon, and is marching after him.

Brown sees some movement at the side of the medical building across the road from his office. It is Michael Judd, one of the three members of the Chapin gang. He and Hiram Chapin have quietly ridden into town from the direction of Liberty. Their aim is to rescue their partner Howard from the jail. They have tied up their horses at the side of the medical building, and have been sneaking forward, hoping to be able to get into the Sheriff's Office, release Howard, and get away, all without being noticed.

Judd, seeing Brown looking right at him, panics and fires his carbine. The aim is wild and the shot misses. Brown swings up his scattergun and fires at Judd, hitting him in the gun arm. Judd fires again whilst Brown reloads; his aim is better this time and the bullet puts a hole in the sheriff's trousers, narrowly missing his leg. Chapin realises that the outlaws must move quickly now the alarm is raised. He jumps out past Judd and fires a volley from his own carbine. Brown collapse, hit in the head and guts.

Deputy Cavanagh hears the gunfire. He rushes out of the store and is immediately felled by a bullet in the guts from Judd's gun. Judd is now firing wildly down the street. Mrs Snider dives into the Dry Goods Store as bullets whistle past her. Her husband hasn't made it to the Longhorn. He scurries to take cover behind the Dry Good Store, but is hit in the gun arm by one of Judd's bullets.

With two lawmen down, things aren't looking good for Halford's Ferry. But some of the townsfolk are made of stern stuff. Ben Callagan takes his derringer out of his pocket. The front of the Dry Goods Store is too dangerous to exit, so he moves out the

back and heads towards the Sheriff's Office.

Willy Wheeler, the prospector, recently found a rich vein of gold and is celebrating by staying in the Grand Hotel. He has heard the gunfire and has prepared his old muzzle-loading rifle. He darts out of the back of the hotel and moves along the backs of the buildings towards the action at the west end of town.

The coast looks clear for the outlaws. Chapin runs into the Sheriff's Office and releases Howard from the jail. It looks like they might make it.

Firing erupts again outside. Judd has seen Mrs Snider exit the Dry Goods Store, brandishing a pistol. A hail of bullets drives her back inside. Judd is now firing at anything that moves. David Dickinson has been having lunch at the cafe at the east end of town. He plucks up courage, and his scattergun, and rushes from the cafe across the street. Luck is against him; one of Judd's bullets catches him in the chest. He collapses in a heap on the ground.

Howard and Chapin sprint out of the Sheriff's Office and across the street to the side of the medical building, where Judd and the horses are waiting. The outlaws rapidly mount their steeds. They are spotted by Willy Wheeler, who has moved closer and is hiding behind one of the wooden fences at the back of the hardware store next to the medical building. Wheeler fires at Judd, misses, and cowers for cover as Judd's bullets smack into the wooden fence inches away from him. Wheeler reloads and fires at Judd and Chapin, who are galloping out of town, on the road to Liberty. The range is long and he misses.

Judd and Chapin cannot be stopped now, but what about Howard? Callagan had now crept through the Sheriff's Office and charged out the front door, screaming and pointing his derringer at Howard. Alongside him is Mrs Snider, with her pistol. The plucky two fired at Howard. He spurred his horse and raced off after Judd and Chapin, firing his pistol back towards the townsfolk. They paused for a second, looking back at Halford's Ferry. Yup, the gang was together again, but they had better make themselves scarce. They spurred their horses and headed off towards The Grants, a range of hills in the distance. They would be able to hide there safely for a while...

## EPILOGUE

Outlaw Judd made a full recovery from the gunshot to his arm. Sheriff Brown died from his gut wound. Deputy Cavanagh recovered from his wound but his nerves were so shaken he retired. Mr Snider was so drunk he was unable to apply a tourniquet and bled to death. Mr Dickinson died from his chest wound.

## 1876 FALL TINYTOWN

Following the successful jailbreak of Howard, the gang headed to TINYTOWN, a small town just to the southeast of the Grant Hills. They spent the next few weeks checking out TINYTOWN and its surroundings, seeing if there was any easy money to be had.

## 1876 WINTER STAGECOACH HELD UP BETWEEN TINYTOWN AND LIBERTY! (21)

Prudence Tollman glared across the interior of the stagecoach at her husband Bill, who was looking out of the window, ignoring her. They were now about halfway between TINYTOWN, their home, and the great town of Liberty. Even before the coach had left TINYTOWN the argument had begun. They were heading to Liberty—a big, big town, which Bill hated—to see Prudence's sister, who Bill also hated. For years Prudence had wanted to move to Liberty, stating how much she disliked the people and the general grubbiness of TINYTOWN. Bill had argued that their grocers store was doing well in TINYTOWN, where it had little competition; if they moved to Liberty he would be one-amongst-many and he was convinced they would be a lot poorer.



*The Small Blue River, Marston's soddie, and The Grant Hills.*

One thing the two of them would have agreed upon was the tedium of the trip. They had been thumping and crashing for miles along the rocky trail. The scenery hadn't changed much; the Small Blue River to the left of them and, to the right, the Grants (a range of low hills before the wide openness of the lands of the Fordham Ranch). Above them, the coach driver—Mike Ross—and, sat next to him, the Sheriff of TINYTOWN, Henry Coussnir, hardly spoke.

Bill Tollman leaned out the window, mouth closed and eyes squinted up against the dust from the horses. He could see something up ahead. It was Old Martson's soddie, just to the left of the trail; hard to see because of its natural colours.

Outlaw Hiram Chapin nodded to Michael Judd, the older gunfighter, who was saddled up beside him, next to the soddie. Time for them to do a bit of robbing. As the coach drew closer, Chapin dug his spurs into his horse and moved out onto the trail, with Judd close behind. Chapin raised his hand and shouted for the coach to stop.

Mike Ross brought the coach to a standstill. He said nothing. Sheriff Coussnir, took a firmer grasp of the carbine that lay across his lap. "Can we help you folks?" he asked.



*The stagecoach is stopped by the Chapin Gang.*

Coussnir knew something was wrong even before he heard Chapin's reply, because he sensed a third stranger approaching on horseback from behind the coach. It was John Howard, the oldest of the Chapin gang, with his carbine drawn, looking mean.

Coussnir raised his carbine but before he could fire, Judd and Chapin—now dismounted—began firing. Coussnir almost dropped his carbine when he was hit in the leg. He looked to Ross for support, but Ross had no stomach to fight and had dived off the side of the coach and was now cowering beside it. It did him no good, for Howard was now close to the rear of the coach and began firing at Ross who, with nowhere to hide now, began to fire back.



*The bullets begin to fly.*

Coussnir was reloading and firing his trapdoor carbine as fast as he could. He was now wounded in several places, but had killed Judd's horse and spooked Chapin's. It was an uneven fight and Coussnir thought he was done for when he had to fumble for his ammo box under the seat.

He was saved by Bill Tollman who had thrust a long hunting rifle out the window of the coach and was firing at Judd. Judd returned the fire, peppering the coach with bullets, sending Tollman to the floor with a round in the guts. Prudence, screaming, burst out of the far side of the coach. Unfortunately this was directly between Ross and Howard; she was hit twice in the guts with bullets from Howard and slumped to the ground. The abrupt appearance of Prudence distracted Ross, who paused firing and was immediately badly hit in the leg by one of Howard's bullets.

Coussnir was now the only one of the Tinytown folk still fighting in a very uneven fight. With bullets coming from all three of the Chapin gang, it was only a short time before he was hit in the chest and pitched off the coach and onto the trail.

Chapin and gang quickly searched the wounded, stealing anything of value. They pushed Bill Tollman out of the coach and with no consideration for the poor plight of their fellow men (and woman) turned the coach to the right and drove it away from the trail into the cover offered by The Grant Hills.

## EPILOGUE

Sheriff Coussnir, despite his wounds, managed to move his wounded companions to Marston's soddie. He found bandages and medicine there. They survived overnight and the next day were spotted by a passing wagon, which took them to Liberty, where one of the town's best doctors tended to them.

Sheriff Coussnir's leg and chest wounds healed rapidly and he was soon back at work in Tinytown.

Bill Tollman's stomach wound was severe and after a long fight he died from an infection in early 1877.

Prudence Tollman's recovery was partial. Her guts and general health were never the same again. She got her wish of staying in Liberty, but it was a sorry housebound existence at her sister's house.

Mike Ross had to have his foot amputated, but returned to his job as coach driver.

# NOTES

Now aged 31, Chapin was born in [Franklyn](#). His family left Franklyn when he was young (reputedly because of thuggery and general pissing-off of the locals) and moved E to [Wide Gulch](#).

After working as a cowboy for a time, he came to notoriety when he, and some friends, unsuccessfully tried to rob [North Farm](#) (a farm near to [Sweetwater](#)). Chased by a posse, he initially scarpared to a friend in [Browning](#), and then on to [Stubville](#). Things have quietened down now, and he is back in Wide Gulch, but keeping a very low profile.

## 1875 SPRING

Chapin is checking out [Hubbardton](#), with an eye to mischief, and cultivating contacts (dodgy ones) in the town. Managed to recruit Micheal Judd, gunfighter.

## 1875 SUMMER

Chapin and Judd decide to rob a train as it passes through Hubbardton, heading out of the County. Judd takes on the express agent, who is easily overpowered. The gang gain 6 Lucre Points from robbing passengers and the mail. It looks like no one has identified them (they won't be officially 'Wanted') but the posse is after them!

Rough terrain.

Posse consists of four men, including the sheriff (but no deputies).

The chase was long and hard. Chapin was off like a shot, leaving Judd trailing behind. The two of them rapidly pulled away from the townsfolk, but the Sheriff was harder to shift. At one point Conoly was almost in range, but gradually the outlaws distanced themselves from him, heading for [Amityville](#), and on to Wide Gulch.

Chapin pays out 1 LP to Judd, for his efforts, and one to himself, leaving 4 in the kitty. He also recruits John Howard from Wide Gulch.

## 1875 FALL

In the Autumn of 1875 Chapin, Judd, and Howard head to [Halford's Ferry](#). The trio aim to rob the Dry Goods Store. [W3C Game 07](#)

The raid is a partial success, with Chapin and Judd escaping with a significant amount of money, but with Howard getting wounded and captured.

10 Lucre Points gained., taking total to 14. Payment for Chopin, Judd, and (held back) Howard, takes this to 11 LP.

## 1875 WINTER

Chapin and Judd return to Wide Gulch and spend the winter there, keeping a low profile. Chapin and Judd are now wanted men in Halford's Ferry, Fork, and the Wallinger Ranch.

Chapin pays Judd and himself, and puts money to one side for Howard. Funds are now 8 LP.

Wanted in all locations within n hexes, where n is the number of observed robberies etc.

Howard, now in Halford's Ferry's jail, recovers from his wound. He is awaiting trial in Autumn 1876. Chapin and Judd decide to try to spring him from jail in Summer 1876.

## 1876 SPRING

Chopin and Judd mooch round Steaming Rock, looking for opportunities for theft, without success.

Now down to 5 LP (plus Howard's in the kitty)

## 1876 SUMMER

Chopin and Judd return to Halford's Ferry, to spring Howard from jail. [W3C Game 09](#)

### THE OUTCOME

Outlaw Judd - hit in gun arm. Makes a full recovery.

Sheriff Brown - hit in head and gut (OOF) (shot by Chapin). Died from the gut wound.

Deputy Cavanagh - hit in gut, OOF -1 rep on recovery (shot by Judd). Recovered from the gut wound, but his nerves didn't. Retires.

Mr Snyder - hit in gun arm OOF (shot by Judd). Died from his wounds. Too drunk to apply tourniquet.

Mr Dickinson - hit in chest OD (shot by Judd). Dead.

Players  
Outlaws - Jef  
Townsfolk - Al and Marcus.

## GAME HIGHLIGHT

Jef, controlling one of the outlaws, has just hit Dickinson, and is rolling for hit location.

"A double six would be really great!"...and rolls boxcars.

## THE GAME

Chapin and Judd return to Halford's Ferry to try to spring Howard from jail.

Sheriff is in the Dry Goods Store.  
Has Deputy Cavanagh with him.  
Others in town, all armed, are:  
Callagan, in street, 8" W of centre.  
Wheeler in Grand Hotel  
Dickinson in City Cafe  
Jones in City Cafe  
Mr Snider in Dry Goods  
Mrs Snider in street, 6" E of centre.

No unforeseen events.

## 1876 WINTER

Stagecoach held up between TINYTOWN and Liberty! (21).

Sheriff Coussnir wounded in leg. Hit in chest OOF.

Bill Tollman hit in gut OOF -1 recovery  
Prudence Tollman, hit in gut OOF -1 recover

Mike Ross hit in leg OOF.

## WHERE ARE THEY WANTED?

Liberty  
TINYTOWN  
Halford's Ferry  
Fork  
Wallinger Ranch.