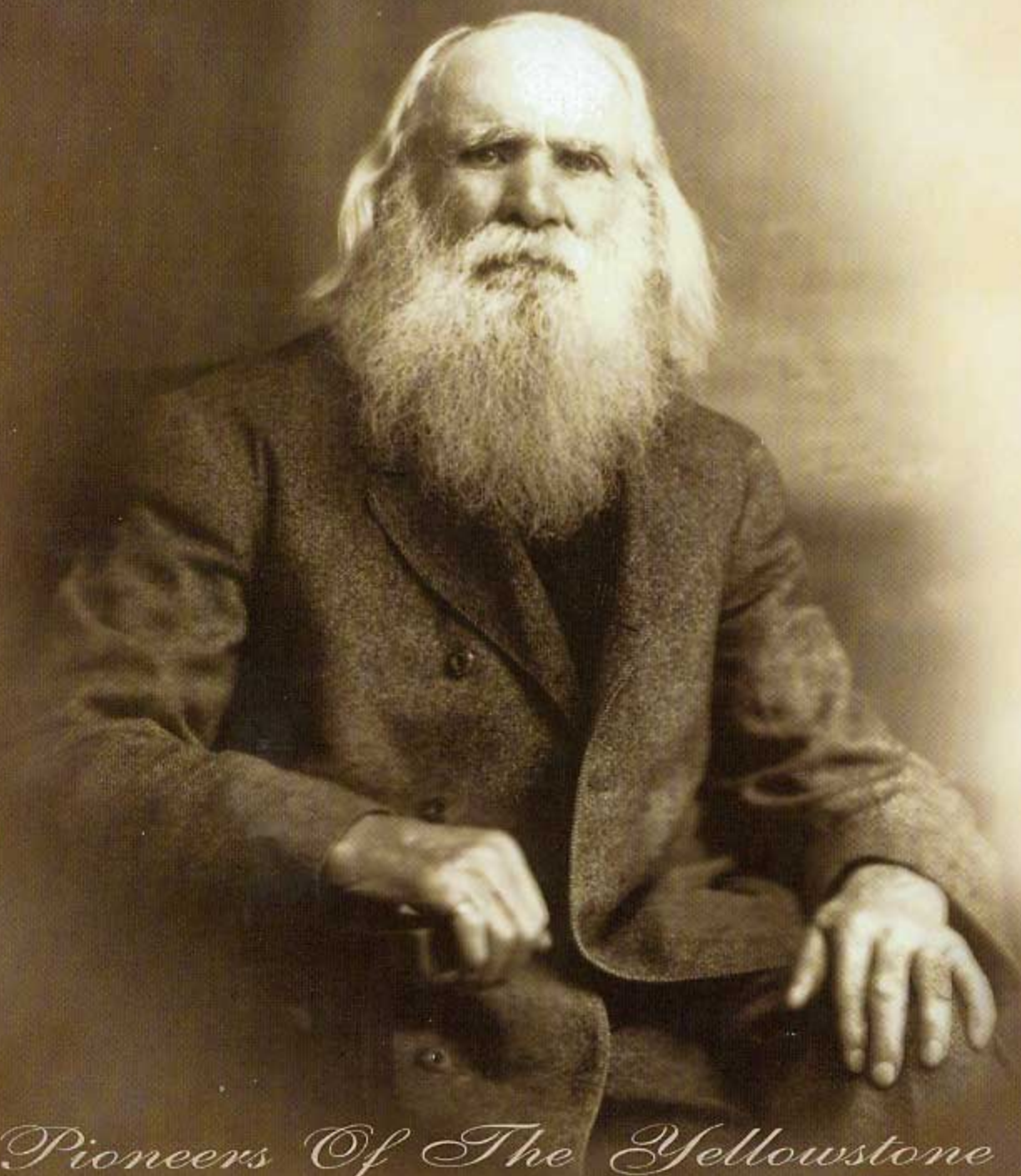


Montana Monographs



*Pioneers Of The Yellowstone
Valley*

INTRODUCTION

Montana Monographs is a collection of anecdotal historical information, including short biographies, concerning the Billings area. It was edited by Ignatius Daniel O'Donnell (1860-1948), probably during the years 1927-29. The two unpublished loose-leaf volumes (here combined) reside in the Montana Room of Parmly Billings Library. It recently came to our attention that this material needed greater accessibility and a more secure existence, so we have arranged for copies to be made and placed with various agencies. Among these are the Montana Historical Society and several Montana libraries.

The author, I. D. (Bud) O'Donnell, was himself a pioneer to our area, first arriving in 1882. Because of his great interest and activity in local agriculture, irrigation, business and finance, as well as a long standing personal involvement in civic affairs, Mr. O'Donnell is clearly one of the "Founding Fathers" of the Billings area. He was probably also our first citizen of state and national renown, with his prize-winning Hesper Farm, as an author, and by serving in various offices in the reclamation movement of the first half of the 20th century.

Like many of the early Montana pioneers, he had a keen sense of history, and this collection is partial evidence of this hobby. His own biography "would fill a book," as his grandson, Harley, told me recently. For more information, the reader is referred to Parmly Billings Library (which he served for 44 years as a founder and director) and to Special Collections, Roland Rene Library, MSU, Bozeman, where he was also active through the years.

April, 1984

Yellowstone Historical Society

Tom Fraser

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