



WAYNE CITY LANDING (also called UPPER INDEPENDENCE LANDING)

Thaddeus A. Culbertson

1850 March 25

“... One of the Independence landings [Blue Mills] was reached soon after [Liberty Landing]; from this one [Blue Mills] the town [of Independence] is distant about 7 miles; very few passengers landed here but 12 miles further up the river we came to another landing [Wayne City] but 3 miles from the town [of Independence] and there a large number of our passengers went off. Entertainment is here found in backwoods style, as passengers were informed by several signs attached to log houses; one of these, a small log house afforded entertainment for “Ladies and Gentlemen.” The Levee had a very brisk appearance while we were there as two boats were then putting freight ashore and a third had just done so. There were several conveyances for passengers to the town; one of these a good four horse vehicle was at the lower landing [Blue Mills], took a load from there—went to the town [of Independence] and came down to the upper landing [Wayne City] ready to make some more “dimes.”

*****This Upper Independence Landing, or Independence Landing as some call it, was used heavily for many years. Culbertson was in an exploratory party going to the Badlands to collect fossils. Culbertson describes a quite active Wayne City in 1850. **Source:** Culbertson, Thaddeus A. *Journal of an Expedition to the Mauvaises Terres and the Upper Missouri in 1850*. Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology, *Bulletin 147*. Wash., D.C.: Govt. Printing Office, 1952, quote on p. 19.

LIBERTY WEEKLY TRIBUNE

1852 July 30

“FATAL AFFRAY AT WAYNE CITY

While the candidates were speaking at Wayne City on Thursday last, a difficulty occurred between G.W. Reynolds and John Blythe, (both somewhat in liquor). Reynolds stabbed Blythe three different times, twice in the shoulder and once in the abdomen, cutting and letting out his entrals [sic]. He died on last night about 11 o'clock. Reynolds is in custody.”

*****The late Jane Mallinson found this newspaper clipping. Even though Wayne City never grew into a full-fledged town, this news article does show that Wayne City was enough of a thriving place in 1852 that political candidates felt the need to promote themselves in that community. **Source:** “Member Jane Mallinson Shares News Clipping”, [includes reprint of news article], *Missouri River Outfitters Newsletter*, (December 2009), 5, news article on p. 5.