



# JOHN FREDERICK 'JACK' SHOBLOM

- **35<sup>th</sup> Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** August 28, 1871 at Marine on the St Croix, Minnesota.
- **Married.** Louise S. in 1901. Their only child, Genevieve Evalyn, died from spinal meningitis at four years old.
  - **Died.** January 10, 1943 at his home in Missoula Montana. Jack died suddenly, one week after his retirement. He had just moved from the family quarters of the jailhouse into an apartment.
  - **Nickname.** 'Big Jack'
  - **1897.** Arrived in Montana. Jack and Louise began their married life by working a ranch near Philipsburg, Montana.
- **1900.** Arrived in Missoula, Montana. Jack was a renowned woodsman. Most of his life in Montana was spent in the woods as a foreman for the Anaconda Mining Company.
- **1901.** Jack was in charge of the large log drives down the Blackfoot River into the Bonner sawmill plant. It took 100 men to start the logs moving down the Clearwater River, then, 40 men took charge of delivering them down the Blackfoot River to the mill pond. Jack had a high reputation of loyalty to the woodsmen and would often state that he had the best crews in the country. All his crews took great pride in their work and had a strong sense of loyalty and family for their fellow woodsmen. Jack said these were the 'happiest days of his life.'
- **1907.** At the time of their daughter's death, the Shobloms were noted as living in St. Regis where Jack was connected with the Big Blackfoot Milling Company.
- **Granite County.** Served as County Commissioner.
- **1938.** Elected as the 35<sup>th</sup> Missoula County Sheriff.
- **September 6, 1940.** George 'Slim' Franklin, 27, and Norman Lewis, 16, robbed a service station in Drummond at gunpoint, kidnapped the attendant, Jack Burnett, and fled into the mountains near Ovando. Barnett was released late in the evening, the car was abandoned, and the robbers set out on foot into the mountainous area. Sheriff Shoblom quickly rounded up a posse of 100+ men consisting of officers, ranchers, and farmers to block roads and search the hills. After one day, 15 miles of walking, and hungry, Lewis stepped out of the bushes and surrendered. The following day, Ovando ranchers Hugh Copenhaver and Art Daniels were headed into Missoula for supplies when Franklin hailed them down on Greenough Hill. The ranchers immediately recognized the man from posted descriptions. Art climbed in the backseat with a crank handle hidden between his knees and let Franklin sit in the front seat. About a mile down the road, Copenhaver made an excuse to stop the car and got out. When he re-entered the car, he and Daniels jumped Franklin and disarmed him. The captive noted his hunger and his concern that he could have 'walked off a cliff or something.' The 'take' on the robbery was \$36.85. Franklin received 15 years in prison and Lewis received 10 years.

Grave 6 – Lot 10 – Block 21



*Jack was buried in the Shoblom family plots alongside his wife, Louise, and their baby daughter, Genevieve Evalyn.*



*Log Drives down the Blackfoot River – Courtesy of the Bonner School / Jack L. Demmons photo collection.*

