

Thomas Tate Tobin: Scout (1823-1904)

Thomas Tate Tobin was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on May 1, 1823, the son of Bartholomew “Bartlett” Tobin, an Irish immigrant and Sarah Autobees. Sarah is believed to have been a Delaware who had been widowed before marrying Tobin and brought a son, Charles Autobees (later Autobee), into the marriage. A year later, a daughter Catherine was born to the couple. Tom Tate Tobin first married Maria Pascuala Bernal circa. 1846. Their daughter Maria Pascuala Tobin born 23 October 1863 in Costilla, married William Carson the son of legendary Kit Carson. Thomas then married Maria Rosa Quintana. He was employed delivering dispatches to Fort Leavenworth for General S. Kearny.

Obituary:

Thomas Tobin - Wray Rattler - May 27, 1904 - Thomas Tobin, a noted scout and Indian fighter of the early days of Colorado, died at Fort Garland, a few days ago at the age of eighty-seven. He spent the declining years of his life on his farm four miles from Fort Garland, where his children were born. They are Mrs. Breen of Silverton, Mrs. William Carson of Fort Garland, who married Kit Carson's eldest son, Mrs. Newton of Alamosa, and John Tobin of San Luis Valley, who has been blind for some time.



TOM TOBIN

Frontiersman



by James E. Perkins



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Thomas Tate Tobin

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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| Thomas Tate Tobin | |
| Born | May 1, 1823 St. Louis, Missouri |
| Died | 1904 |
| Occupation | Mountain man , adventurer , US Army scout , bounty hunter |

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|---------------|-----------------|
| Spouse | Pascuala Bernal |
|---------------|-----------------|

Tom Tobin (1823 – 1904) was an [American adventurer](#), [tracker](#), [trapper](#), [mountain man](#), [guide](#), [US Army scout](#), and occasional [bounty hunter](#). Tobin explored much of southern [Colorado](#), including the [Pueblo](#) area. He associated with men such as [Kit Carson](#), "Uncle Dick" Wootton, [Ceran St. Vrain](#), [Charley Bent](#), [John C. Fremont](#), "Wild Bill" Hickok, [William F. Cody](#), and the Shoup brothers. Tobin was one of only two men to escape alive from the siege of Turley's Mill during the [Taos Revolt](#). In later years he was sent by the Army to track down and eliminate the notorious [Felipe Espinosa](#), returning to [Ft. Garland](#) with Espinosas' head in a sack.^[1]

[edit] **Early life**

In 1828, Charles Autobees, then 16 years old, went west to work as a [beaver trapper](#). He returned to St. Louis in 1837. That year, his half-brother Tom, then 14 years old, returned with Charles to Taos, in the company of [Ceran St. Vrain](#). Tom worked as a trapper and scout at [Bent's Fort](#), and in Taos, and along with his brother, worked at Simeon Turley's store, mill, and distillery at [Arroyo Hondo](#). He accompanied his brother Charles on trips to deliver supplies and whiskey to trappers in trade for furs, and they took the pelts to St. Louis to trade for more supplies for Turley's store. Autobees and Tobin made regular stops in places such as [Fort Jackson](#), [Fort Lupton](#), [Bent's Fort](#), and [El Pueblo](#).

By 1846, Tom had married Pascuala Bernal, and was living with his family in [Arroyo Hondo](#), near Taos. He continued working for Turley, and delivered dispatches to [Fort Leavenworth](#) for Gen. [Stephen Kearny](#).

[edit] **The Taos Revolt**

For more details on this topic, see [Taos Revolt](#) .

On the morning of January 19, 1847, insurrectionists opposed to American rule began a revolt in Don Fernando de Taos (present-day [Taos, New Mexico](#)). They were led by a Hispanic man, [Pablo Montoya](#) and a Taos Indian, [Tomás Romero](#), known as [Tomasito](#).

The Indians, led by Tomasito, went to the home of Governor [Charles Bent](#), broke down the door, shot Bent several times with arrows, and scalped him in front of his wife and children. Several other government officials were likewise murdered and scalped. Among them were Stephen Lee, acting county sheriff; Cornelio Vigil, prefect and probate judge; and J.W. Leal, circuit attorney.

The next day a large mob of approximately 500 Mexicans and Indians attacked and laid siege to Simeon Turley's Mill, where Autobee and Tobin were working. Autobee saw the

crowd coming and rode to Santa Fe to inform the occupying American forces about the revolt and to try to get help, leaving eight to ten mountain men, including his brother Tom, to defend the mill. After a day-long battle, only two of the men, [Johnny Albert](#) and Tom Tobin, would survive, both escaping the burning mill separately on foot during the confusion of night fighting.

After his escape, Tom and his brother Charles served as scouts for a company led by Capt. [Ceran St. Vrain](#), to find and capture the insurrectionists. Those perpetrators who were not killed in battle were tried and put to death.

[\[edit\]](#)**Scout, guide, Indian fighter**

In 1847, Tobin farmed on land bordering the San Carlos River southeast of El Pueblo, selling his crops to Lt. Col. [William Gilpin](#), who was camped with his troops near [Bent's Fort](#). The next year, Gilpin asked Tobin to scout for him during his planned spring campaign against the Indians. Gilpin then asked Tobin to serve as a courier, carrying dispatches from the Canadian River valley of Oklahoma to Bent's Fort.

Just before the Civil War, Tobin was hired as a scout by Maj. B.L. Beall, to guide an expedition to find a railroad route to California. Beall described Tobin as "having a reputation almost equal to Kit Carson's for bravery, dexterity with his rifle, and skill in mountain life."

In November 1868, Tobin was appointed by Gen. Penrose as chief scout on an Indian-hunting campaign. Other scouts hired were Tobin's brother Charles Autabee, and "Wild Bill" Hickok.

Felipe Espinosas

In the early 1860's, Mexican national Felipe Espinosa (along with two cousins) moved to the [San Luis Valley](#) from [New Mexico](#). The Espinosas went on a killing spree beginning in 1863, murdering over thirty anglos in the area in retaliation for relatives killed in the [Mexican-American War](#). A detachment of soldiers from [Ft. Garland](#), as well as several [posses](#), attempted to capture the brothers, but succeeded only in killing one brother, who was quickly replaced by a cousin. Eventually, the commanding officer of Ft. Garland, Colonel [Sam Tappan](#), requested Tobin's help in bringing the Espinosas' reign of terror to an end. He provided Tobin with a detachment of fifteen soldiers, but Tobin left them at camp, as they made too much noise on the trail. Tobin tracked the Espinosas to a camp and shot them. He cut off their heads and carried them in a sack back to Ft. Garland as proof of his success. It is said that when asked by Tappan how his trip had gone, Tobin replied "So-so", then rolled the heads out of the sack and across the floor. There was several thousand dollars reward (Dead or Alive) for the Espinosas, but Tobin would never collect the full amount. But he was given a coat like Kit Carson's by the governor of Colorado, and a [Henry rifle](#) by the Army.

Billy Carson shooting

In [1878](#), Tobin's daughter, Pascualita, married [Kit Carson](#)'s son William. Some years later, Tobin tried to stab Carson for abusing Tobin's daughter, and Carson hit Tobin in the head with a sledge hammer and shot him in the side. Tobin and his son-in-law apparently ironed out their problems a few days later, but Tobin never fully recovered from the shooting. He did, however, outlive Billy Carson.

References

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