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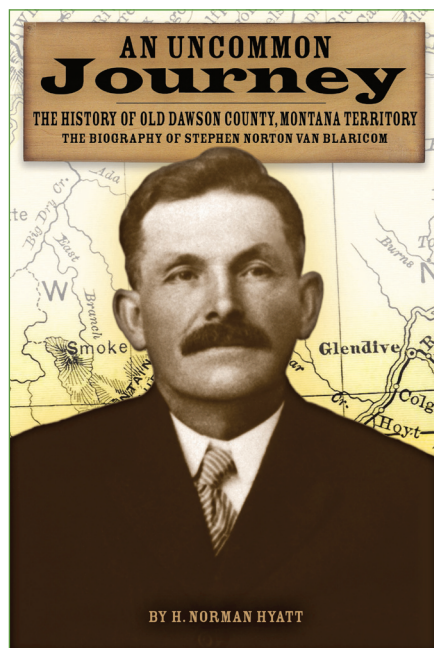
**FARCOUNTRY**  
PRESS

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## THE FIRST SETTLERS OF THE LAST WEST

Based on the memoir of Stephen Norton Van Blaricom, *An Uncommon Journey* (\$24.95, \$34.95, H. Norman Hyatt, 2010) details the origins of Dawson County, Montana, in the late 1800s. Authored by H. Norman Hyatt, descendant of Van Blaricom, the book is the result of nearly twenty years of careful and exhaustive research.

The oldest of nine children, Van Blaricom left home at the age of thirteen and worked for many of northeastern Montana's earliest ranches. After working for the Northern Pacific Railroad, he married Maud Griselle, one of the first female telegraphers for the Northern Pacific.

More than a family history, *An Uncommon Journey* tells the personal stories of many of the first settlers of this last West: buffalo hunters, cattlemen, train drivers, early tradesmen, saloonkeepers, scallywags, and lawmen. There were few women in this vast and trackless country; those who ventured into this remote land often lived in harsh and lonely conditions.

Hyatt says his extensive research "will add some new names to the written history of Montana. Northeast Montana has suffered much neglect over the past one

## AN UNCOMMON JOURNEY: The History of Old Dawson County, Montana Territory The Biography of Stephen Norton Van Blaricom

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BY: H. Norman Hyatt

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hundred and twenty years. There were people of great importance to the history of the state who came from there."

"There were common men with extraordinary backgrounds," Hyatt adds, "including civil war soldiers, lawmen, seafarers, cattle graziers, and riverboaters—they came from all over the world."

The 1880 census recorded 180 white men, women, and children inhabiting the 25,000 square miles of the original Dawson County. About 2,000 more followed them over the next six years. These resilient and resourceful individuals were the "first settlers"—the first wave of pioneers who attempted to carve out a living in the desolation of

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northeastern Montana Territory. Many of them died, and they lie buried in remote graves in the countryside. A few found jobs and eked out a living in Glendive or Wibaux. Many more failed and moved on to greener pastures. There were a few who prospered and stayed on.

This is the story of many of the long-forgotten first settlers of old Dawson County and how they met the challenges of a country that was then primitive and remote at its best and deadly at its worst. For all of them it was, indeed, **An Uncommon Journey.**

An *Uncommon Journey* is available at local bookstores and gift shops, through online retailers, or from distributor Farcountry Press at 1.800.821.3874, [www.farcountrypress.com](http://www.farcountrypress.com).

### Praise for An Uncommon Journey:

“With the same stick-to-it tenacity that enabled the settlers of old Dawson County to scratch a living from the harsh badlands of eastern Montana, Norman Hyatt has pieced together the fascinating stories of the life and adventures of these old-timers. The resulting book, *An Uncommon Journey*, offers a delightful and historically accurate view of this region. *An Uncommon Journey* has earned its place in the written history of Montana.”

—MOLLY HOLZ, EDITOR OF MONTANA: THE MAGAZINE OF WESTERN HISTORY

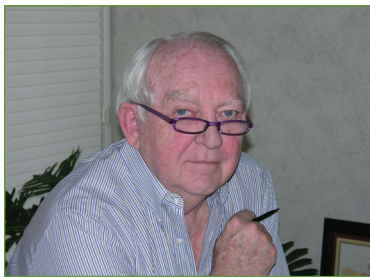
“This engaging new history of Dawson County effectively marries a first-person narrative with footnoted documentation of late nineteenth-century life in eastern Montana. This is so much more than a family history.”

—BRIAN SHOEVERS, LIBRARIAN, MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

“What began as a search for a long-lost grave evolved into a thoroughly researched, carefully documented history of old Dawson County—*An Uncommon Journey*. Readers will be introduced to the earliest ranchers and the coming of the railroad—a vivid depiction of pioneer life full of fascinating tales.”

—GLADYS MULLET KAUFMAN, AUTHOR OF AS I REMEMBER STORIES OF EASTERN MONTANA'S PIONEERS, VOL. I AND VOL. II

### About the Author:



NORMAN HYATT was born in Yakima, Washington, and raised on a cattle ranch in eastern Washington. A Stanford graduate (B.A., M.A.), he descends from early pioneers of Oregon, Idaho Territory, Washington Territory, and Montana Territory. *An Uncommon Journey* is his first book. He and his wife, Karen, reside in Washington.

For an interview, contact the author at: (509) 248-7379 / [uncomjourney@aol.com](mailto:uncomjourney@aol.com)

### About Farcountry Press

Formed in 1980 and based in Helena, Montana, Farcountry Press is an award-winning publisher of softcover and hardcover color photography books, children's series, guidebooks, cookbooks, and regional history titles nationwide.

Farcountry Press also distributes books for several publishers, including Northern Rockies Publishing, University Pride Publishing, and Sweetgrass Books, Farcountry's custom-publishing division. [www.farcountrypress.com](http://www.farcountrypress.com)

For a press kit (cover image, interior photos, author contact information), contact Linda Netschert at [linda.netschert@farcountrypress.com](mailto:linda.netschert@farcountrypress.com), 406.444.5103.

### Take a peek inside

