Annie Campbell
Born: March 18, 1844
Died: 1912

Age on the Bertrand: 20 years

Fannie Campbell
Born: November 4, 1846
Died: June 24, 1919

Age on the Bertrand: 18 years

The Campbell Family

Parents:
• Major James Blackstone Campbell
• Sarah Kain Campbell

Children:
• Gurdon Campbell (Gurdon became a successful trader and mercantile businessman in Gallatin, Montana.)
• Helen Campbell (Helen married Montana State Senator Judge James Gallaher.)
• Annie Campbell
• Fannie Campbell

After the Wreck of the Bertrand:

• The Campbell daughters settled in the Montana Territory (Montana became the 41st State on Nov. 8, 1889).
• Annie married Montana rancher Frank Dunbar (born April 24, 1837) on February 27, 1867. They had five children together: Florence, Mary, Herbert, Frank, and Homer.
• Fannie became a school teacher in 1867. She remained single for most of her life but married former teacher and rancher Elizur Thornburg (born July 28, 1843) on October 30, 1910.

For more information about the Bertrand and/or the Campbell girls, please visit our websites at www.fws.gov/refuge/DeSoto/ and www.fws.gov/refuge/boyer_chute/

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
1434 316th Lane
Missouri Valley, IA 51555
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The Campbell Artifacts

The Campbell sisters transported some fine items soon to be more common in the booming settlements of the Territory.

Fannie’s Slate

Perhaps the best known Campbell family artifact is Fannie’s slate. It is a simple school chalkboard made of thin plate steel and is covered on both sides with a black lacquer. Carved lightly in the top of the wood frame is the name FANNIE.

The Campbell Coat

The coat is a highly decorated example for the 1800’s, indicating the Campbell family had above average means. It is a black silk overcoat with a semi-fitted bodice and a widely flaring skirt.

Hat Pins:

Two gilt brass hat Pins; perhaps one for each sister. These hat pins (one being round and the other more oval shaped) were one of the finer things found on the Steamboat Bertrand.

Glass Heart:

This tiny glass heart is a yellowish-green transparent heart with beveled edges and a frosted appearance. Look closely at the heart: It is also engraved with “YOURS / TRULY” on it, indicating it was most likely given by a loved one.

Girl’s Mitt:

This delicate glove is a black silk crocheted mitt with diamond-shaped mesh featuring four designs. This style mitt was commonly worn to semiformal events.

Events Before the Bertrand:

1855: Major Campbell moved his family from Chicago to St. Louis. The girls were put into a Catholic boarding school.

1862: Major and Mrs. Campbell (with Gurdon and Helen) left for the Montana Territory. Fannie and Annie were left to finish school.

1865: The girls finished school and left for the Montana Territory on the Steamboat Bertrand.

The Steamboat Bertrand was bound for Fort Benton, Montana Territory, carrying cargo and passengers. Many of those passengers were headed up the Missouri River to start a new chapter in their lives. The Campbell girls were travelling to reunite with their parents who established a general store in the Territory three years earlier. Fannie and Annie add a personal connection to the story of the sunken Steamboat Bertrand.