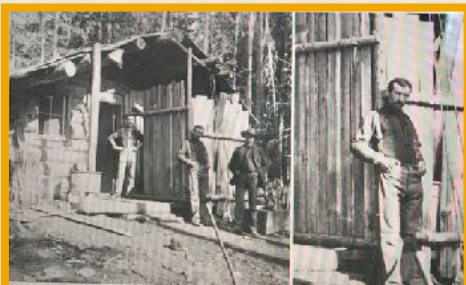


with the intention of farming the area. Milo's wife, Diane Jeanette Dimon Apgar, along with their two boys, Elsi Mortimer and Harvey Dimon Apgar, arrived soon after. (Their daughter, Phoebe, married and moved to Texas.) They homesteaded on land that was impossible to farm, and they had to be enterprising in order to remain there. Hunting and trapping in the area was no problem, so most of these men kept trap lines on a regular basis. Because farming proved impractical, they settlers-colonists quickly became involved in servicing tourists visiting the Glacier National Park, which President Teddy Roosevelt established in 1910. Settlement in the surrounding area predates the park's establishment. Land was quickly patented and much of it is still privately owned today. The National Park Service purchases this land as it becomes available and sellers are willing.

The existing wagon road up the North Fork became the western boundary of the park when Glacier was established in 1910. Forty-four homesteads to the east of the new boundary then became inholdings within Glacier. A rich history of characters, from the first rangers to innovative bootleggers, helped to define the early years of Glacier.

Milo Apgar and Charlie Howe began to cater to the visitors who occasionally got off the train at Belton and wanted to see Lake McDonald. By 1892, Milo Apgar and Charlie Howe were offering rental cabins, meals, pack horses, guided tours, and boat trips for visitors who arrived in Belton on the Great Northern Railway.



GLACIO 5392 and detail of GLACIO 5392: Mr. Milo Apgar standing in front of his cabin near Lake McDonald, 1895. The detail image is a blowup of early Mr. Apgar, Mr. Apgar who was an early settler who homesteaded at the foot of Lake McDonald; the village of Apgar, Montana is named after him. (Note: Glacier National Park was founded in 1909). PHOTO CREDIT: Glacier National Park Archives

Diane Jeanette Dimon Apgar began to furnish meals. All of these homesteaders saw the possibility of catering to tourists and the local miners for a potential livelihood, since several parties of visitors arrived in 1894 and the mines were "showing up fine" in 1895, according to **Man in Glacier** by the Glacier Natural History Association in 1976.

The family had barely scratched out a clearing and a rude home for shelter when Milo died of heart failure in 1896. He was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls, Montana. Soon after, Elsi and Harvey finished an impressive log building which would be home for the Montana Apgars, who were from Shakopee, for nearly half a century.

As these services increased, the village that grew up around them gained the name Apgar. Apgar Village is one of the main villages Glacier National Park. Apgar is located on the west side of the park about one mile in from the West Entrance. Apgar has one of the most popular campgrounds in Glacier Park, and is always quite filled. Apgar Village is also home to a visitors' center, a general store, and a large gift shop.



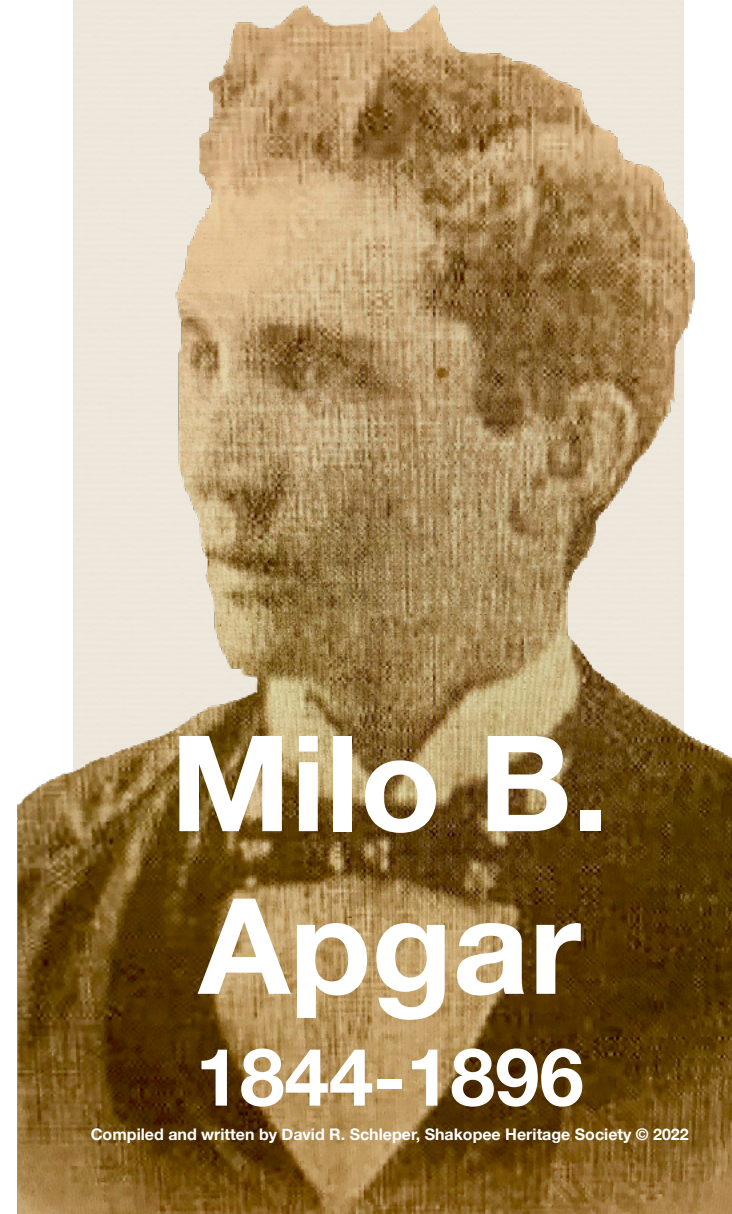
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Milo B.
Apgar
1844-1896

Compiled and written by David R. Schleper, Shakopee Heritage Society © 2022

