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# Media Release

## Shovels to Turn at Yellowstone Kelly Interpretive Site 88 Years After Scout's Death

For Immediate Release

Billings, MT, December 9, 2016: The ground breaking at the Yellowstone Kelly Interpretive Site located on Kelly Mountain at Swords Rimrock Park will be held **Wednesday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m.** in commemoration of the 88 years, to the week, since Kelly's death.

Luther Sage Kelly, veteran, warrior and scout, died December 17, 1928. His desire was to be buried in Montana. Through the years, the gravesite has been a source of neglect and vandalism. With the vision of improving the grave and connecting our heritage to the trail system, a Billings Chamber of Commerce led committee worked for several years to raise the funds to improve the site. Committee chairman Bill Cole said, "This is an exciting milestone in the history of our community. We promised to build a monument to Kelly 88 years ago, and we finally are following through on our promise."



Plans are to have the project completed in June near the date when Kelly's body was laid to rest in Billings. For more information or to donate to the project call the Billings Chamber of Commerce at (406) 245-4111 or log on to [www.yellowstonekelly.org](http://www.yellowstonekelly.org).

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Advocate. Connect. Grow.

The Billings Chamber of Commerce represents you, our 1,200 members who employ more than 44,000 people. We help you grow your bottom line by connecting you to opportunities and advocating for your business and our community.

### Historical Articles on Yellowstone Kelly

Tuesday, December 18, 1928 *Billings Gazette* article of Kelly's death:

'YELLOWSTONE KELLY', WELL KNOWN INDIAN SCOUT DIES; WILL BE BURIED AT BILLINGS

"Yellowstone" Kelly, famous Indian scout under Gen. Nelson A. Miles, who died at Pasadena, Cal., Monday, will be buried in the noted "Boot Hill" cemetery just outside of Billings, and thus one of his lifelong wishes will be fulfilled.

In a copy of his will sent to David Hliger, secretary of the Montana Historical society, the scout, whose real name was Luther Sage Kelly, asked that he be laid to rest in the Yellowstone country, where he had lived in the days before white men in large numbers started their trek to the Treasure state.

Charles A. Ruzicka, secretary of the Billings Commercial Club, said Monday night that he had wired to have Kelly's body sent to Billings, Funeral plans will be in charge of that organization. Secretary Ruzicka is here attending a meeting of commercial organization secretaries.

Chico, Cal., Dec. 17.—Capt. Luther Sage Kelly, famous Indian scout and soldier, died Monday at his home at Paradise, Cal., 18 miles from here. He was 70 years old.

Friend of the late Theodore Roosevelt and of Gen. Nelson A. Miles, an adventurer in many climes, the old scout lived his last days in memories of a career that comes to few men outside story books.

Kelly had been in poor health for about a year. Death was attributed to senile debility. He had lived in Paradise since 1915. He is survived by his widow, a sister, Mrs. William Grimm of Havana, Cuba, a nephew, Dr. Luther A. Kelly of Charlotte, N. C., and a niece, Miss Janet Sage Kelly of New York.

Funeral services will be held in Paradise at a date not yet decided. The body will be sent to Billings, Mont., for burial.

Captain Kelly and his wife lived alone on their ranch near Paradise. They were famous as hosts to many friends who were always eager to listen to his stories.