

VOLUME 2

FRONTIER TOWNS: FORT GRIFFIN VOLUME 2

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FORT GIRTFIN

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FORT GETTIN

DONEY'S SALOON

When your throat's drier than a West Texas sandstorm and you don't need nuthin' fancy—just straight up whiskey and maybe a place to put up your sore feet for a spell—it's right likely that this old shack is calling your name.

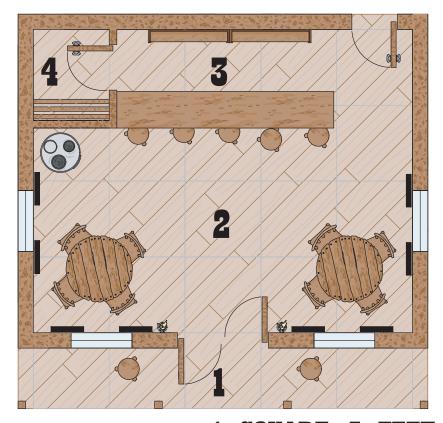
Doney's place ain't much to look at, but it has that certain quiet charm that attracts drifters (and regular folk) looking for a cheap drink without a bunch of folderol—or attention of any kind for that matter.

William Doney, an immigrant from England, built this nearly square, all-wood structure in late 1875. Wanting to capitalize early on the growing commerce and traffic moving through Fort Griffin and The Flat—and not having much to spend on construction—Doney simply put up four walls and a roof as quickly and cheaply as possible. Frankly, it shows. The place appears to be much older than it really is, with warped boards, grubby rotting planks and a few crudely patched holes in the rusted tin roof (especially over the small porch). The wooden walls are relatively weak (Hardness of 5 and 35 total Grit, with a Break DC of 18) with the roof being even less sturdy (Hardness of 4 and 25 total Grit, with a Break DC of 15).

Climbing on this roof is certainly not a task for the fainthearted.

In some ways, the Saloon's broken-down appearance serves it well, drawing a crowd that prefers a no-frills, even solemn, place to get a stiff drink. Moreover, it caters to those penny-pinching travelers that can't afford more than a plain shot of whiskey, as well as those who don't want—or can't resist the temptation of—gaming tables and sweet-smelling women. Not to mention anybody needing a place for a clandestine meeting.

While the place is mostly somber and austere, that doesn't mean things don't get rowdy now and again. Some hard hombres pass through here, and it isn't uncommon for a fracas to break out—night or day—sometimes with Doney himself instigating the disturbances.



1 SQUARE = 5 FEET

FORT GIRTHIN



Arthur J. Hamilton

A widower, Hamilton has no family in The Flat. His wife died some years ago, of double-pneumonia, and his four children are all grown and scattered across the land, pursuing their own endeavors and raising their own families.

Portly, with thinning gray hair, Hamilton always bears a friendly countenance. He greets his clients with a wave or a handshake and maintains cordial relations with the townspeople in general. He goes about town unarmed, preferring to present an image of assurance which he believes will bolster confidence in the security of the bank (besides, he has always been a bit soft and clumsy). Arthur's employees like and respect him; he is also a regular churchgoer. He owns a small house in The Flat.

Educated at the University of Virginia, Hamilton has held several positions in banking and finance over the years. He moved west with his family well before the war, avoiding service because of his relatively important positions with the firms he worked for. He was working for York in Kansas before accepting his promotion and relocating to Fort Griffin.

Arthur J. Hamilton

(Smart Ordinary 3, Dedicated Ordinary 3)

Sex: Male

Birthdate: November 17, 1827 **Birthplace:** Charlottesville, Virginia

Heritage: American Weight: 171 lbs Height: 5'6"

Hair: Gray (moustache)

Eyes: Brown

Allegiances: F.B. York's Bank

Challenge Rating: 5

Level: 6

Grit Dice: 3d6+3d6+6 (27)

MDT: 12 Initiative: +0 Speed: 30 ft.

Base Attack Bonus: +3 **Grapple Modifier:** +2

Space/Reach: 5 ft. x 5 ft. / 5 ft.

Action Points: 0 **Reputation:** +2

Defense: 13, touch 13, flat-footed 13, (+3 class,

+0 Dex)

Saving Throws: Fort +4, Ref +2, Will +6 **Abilities:** Str 8 (-1), Dex 10 (+0), Con 12 (+1), Int 15 (+2), Wis 14 (+2), Cha 14 (+2)

Attacks: Fists +2 (1d3-1 nonlethal; Crit: 20) **Occupation:** Academic (class skills: Knowledge (behavioral sciences), Knowledge (business), Research)

Skills: Craft (writing) +7, Decipher Script +9,
Diplomacy +8, Forgery +6, Gather Information
+6, Knowledge (behavioral sciences) +12,
Knowledge (business) +14, Knowledge (civics) +9,
Knowledge (current events) +7, Knowledge (earth
and life sciences) +4, Knowledge (history) +4,
Knowledge (popular culture) +6, Knowledge
(technology) +4, Knowledge (theology and
philosophy) +6, Listen +4, Profession +9,
Read/Write Language (English), Research +11,
Sense Motive +6, Speak Language (English)

Feats: Educated (Knowledge (business), Knowledge (behavioral sciences)), Personal Firearms Proficiency, Simple Weapons Proficiency, Studious, Trustworthy

Class Features: None

Possessions: Plain suit, good quality shirt, bowler hat, men's shoes, gold pocket watch, string tie

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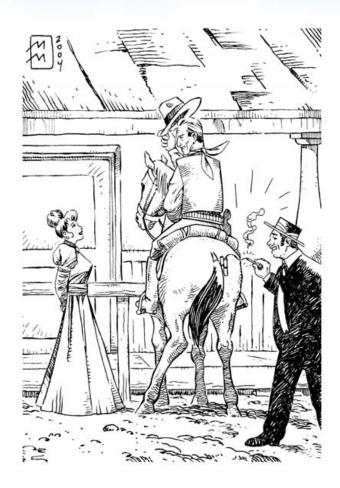
the characters to find her, for a tidy reward. Or the player characters might witness her sneaking around and think she is spying on them for some reason. Maybe they follow her to see what she's up to, only to have The Owl suspect them of stalking him. Maybe she has a boyfriend or admirer (one of the Thorp boys; Teddy Fargas?) who thinks The Owl or the characters are doing the Mouse wrong. The more layers the Judge can add the more interesting and unpredictable this scenario becomes. Because the Mouse is an Ordinary, with little impact outside of this hook, we leave her stats and particulars to you, the Judge.

The Uncle of All Practical Jokes

One of the player characters becomes the object of Uncle Billy's pathological need to play practical jokes. This could arise after the character causes trouble, or gives one of Billy's employees or entertainers a hard time, or even if Billy and the cowpoke become friends and he thinks he can have fun without making an enemy. He becomes determined to launch an intricate—or fast and furious—practical joke on such a cowpoke. Soledad will enthusiastically help her boss, especially if the character has given her any lip or flirted after being asked not to. Because Uncle Billy has lots of friends in town, other townies can be counted on to help the jape along. Some ideas:

- 1. Fast and Furious: During a performance, the show is interrupted to announce that a horse (or whatever works) belonging to the character has been (is being) stolen. Soledad makes the announcement and Uncle Billy rushes to the character's side when he or she identifies himself/herself. A lawman might be involved to add verisimilitude. Billy and his accomplices convince the character that quick action can foil the thievery. When the character rushes out of the place to investigate, all the additional performers (or kids in town) are waiting to pelt the character with rotten fruit (or eggs, or something like that).
- 2. Fast and Furious: Uncle Billy manages to place a tack on a cowpoke's saddle, or he arranges to substitute apple juice for a beer (or vinegar for a shot of whiskey), or he wrangles some other harmless prank for a quick laugh. Depending on the character's mood, this could turn sour fast, or be good for grin.
- 3. Intricate: Uncle Billy arranges for a soiled dove to become friendly with a male player character. After a night of drinking or what-have-you (this works best if the character has been completely distracted by liquor or other vices), the dove's "boyfriend" comes-a-lookin' for the character. Meanwhile, the bullets have been emptied from the poor cowpoke's guns (or replaced by gumdrops, or something) and the boyfriend challenges the man to a duel in the streets.

The entire town is in on the gag and no one will sell the man any bullets or repair his gun. If possible, Billy will also get the character's friends involved (they disappear so they can't loan him a gun; they have turned theirs in for repairs; they are locked up in jail, etc.).



The Judge can take this as far as desired, watching the character become frantic for a way to resolve the situation, before revealing the ruse. In the end, Billy will pay for any damages to placate an irate character.

Fork in the Road:

There's no reason this couldn't be turned around so a female character is the object of Billy's scheme. Instead of a soiled dove, it's a handsome fella (such as Harvey "The Owl" Parker, Teddy Fargas or Allen Baker). And then the man's girlfriend seeks retribution. If it's The Owl, perhaps the Mouse isn't in on the joke, and really comes lookin' for trouble.

4. Intricate: After making friends with one or more of the characters, Uncle Billy sets his mind to a double-crossing extravaganza. Over beer and whiskey with his new pals, he hatches a plan to play a practical joke on the Herveys during a performance the next night. He enlists the characters to stage a gunfight at the Frontier House, right in the middle of one of Muriel's songs. Billy tells the characters to start a shouting match, with one character pulling a gun and another character running onto the stage, trying to escape behind the curtain while the gunman shoots. Billy gives them a prop gun that shoots blanks so no one gets hurt. He also convinces them, if necessary,

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