

5TH ANNUAL WESTERN HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

SHARLOT HALL MUSEUM

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The Opening of the Frontier and the Closing of the West

To an American at the end of the Revolutionary War, the frontier began in the eastern foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. To an American only a century later, the frontier was a thing of the past, destroyed by the forces of manifest destiny, closed off by fences, and made irrelevant through progress. Yet, even as new fences rise, we continue to find new frontiers. Americans, it seems, cherish the idea of an untamed wild beyond the walls. This presentation describes the tremendous historical events that signaled the opening of the frontier, its eventual closing, and on the transformative moments in between; it will help modern audiences put questions about the current, contested frontier into historical context.

Gregory McNamee of Tucson is a writer whose publications include twenty-six books, as well as numerous essays, short stories, articles, and translations in journals in the United States and abroad. He is a contributing editor to the Encyclopedia Britannica and writes regularly for its blog. Mr. McNamee has taught writing courses at the University of Arizona and elsewhere, and he delivers talks and lectures on writing in many venues. His presentation is made possible by the Arizona Humanities Council Speakers Bureau.

The Woolsey Women of Yavapai County, 1864-1914

Arizona history enthusiasts probably know Lucia Martinez as Lucy Woolsey, the common-law Yaqui wife of the Honorable King Woolsey and mother of his only three children. Abducted in Sonora and brought to Arizona by Apaches, Lucia lived with the Colonel at Aqua Fria Ranch for nearly seven years before he married a respectable southern woman and Lucia moved on to Yuma. Mary Woolsey, a Yavapai, is less

commonly known, though her historic role as the first American Indian woman to testify against a non-Indian defendant in an Arizona court was an important event in our state's history. Mary resisted state and federal attempts to confine her to a reservation and lived instead in a small Indian and Mexican tent community along Granite Creek between Fort Whipple and Prescott. This presentation examines the territorial and early statehood history of Arizona through the lives of these fascinating Woolsey women of Yavapai County.

Katrina Jagodinsky hails from northern Wisconsin, but has made Arizona her home for six years. She is currently pursuing her PhD in History at the University of Arizona and is writing a dissertation comparing the lives of Indian women in the Sonoran Southwest and Puget Sound between 1845 and 1898. Her interest is primarily in the extraordinary efforts of ordinary women to sustain themselves in a highly contested West. She was recently honored by the Arizona History Foundation for presenting the best paper by a graduate student at the 2008 Convention. Katrina enjoys every opportunity to visit Prescott and the Sharlot Hall Museum and is honored to share these stories with those who celebrate Arizona's rich and diverse history.

Nellie Trent Bush: Arizona Politician

Arizona has a reputation for producing maverick politicians. Barry Goldwater and John McCain earned national reputations in the United States Senate, but were often at odds with the Republican faithful on issues. Long before either of these men ran for office, a school teacher from the tiny town of Parker defied her party's leadership and established herself as a fixture in state government. Nellie Trent Bush began a lifelong political career in 1916 and defied any notion that women were too delicate to handle the rough stage of western politics. She ran for numerous offices, lost a few bruising elections, and was threatened by the state's political leaders. Through it all, she proved that a woman could succeed in politics without bending to powerful male politicians.

Heidi J. Osselaer received her undergraduate degree in History at the University of California, Berkeley, and earned both her master's degree and doctorate in U.S. History at Arizona State University. In the spring of 2009, the University of Arizona Press will publish her book, *Winning Their Place: Women in Arizona Politics, 1883-1950*. Other publications include: *We Are Here for Business': Arizona's Women Legislators, 1914 to 1940* in *Journal of the West* and *Arizona Political Women* in *Encyclopedia of Women in the American West*, Sage Publications. She has been a lecturer for the Arizona Humanities Council's "Moving Waters" project, and her paper on Nellie Bush garnered two awards at the 2008 Arizona Historical Conference. Currently she teaches U.S. History at Arizona State University, Tempe.

Jack Swilling: Arizona's Most Lied About Pioneer

John W. (Jack) Swilling was the founder of modern metropolitan Phoenix. He also was "the most lied about man" in the history of Arizona Territory. Time has not been kind to Jack's legacy. Most of what is known about him by modern Arizonans comes from legends, half-truths and lies. His was a colorful presence in Arizona from his first arrival as a gold seeker in 1858 to his death in 1878. In those two decades his list of accomplishments was long and varied, but his reputation was fatally injured when he was accused of stagecoach robbery and died before he could have a hearing. Although he later was cleared of the crime, that's not the way of legends and the exoneration is all but forgotten.

Albert R. (Al) Bates grew up in the Salt River Valley, so he has been aware for a long time of the many wild tales that have been told about Jack Swilling. This talk and Al's recent book *Jack Swilling: Arizona's Most Lied About Pioneer* result from years of research looking for the truth behind the legends. He is a past Sheriff and honorary life member of the Prescott Corral of Westerners International. Previously the Prescott Corral published his edited memoir of an early Prescott pioneer titled *My Arizona Adventures, the Recollections of Thomas Dudley Sanders*. Al retired to Prescott in 1991 after a career in computer software development. Before that he was a journalist (BA from ASU) and a corporate publicist.

A Tragic Tale of Southern Utah

Many wagon trains of emigrants traveling westward followed the Old Spanish Trail. In 1857 one such wagon train from Arkansas passed through the Mormon territory of Southern Utah on the way to California. As the party camped in Mountain Meadows to rest before crossing the desert, they were attacked. One hundred and twenty men, women and children were massacred. Two years later General Carleton was sent from Fort Tejon, California to investigate this tragedy. For 150 years historians have continued to investigate the circumstances, persons involved and political events of the times as well as the emotional impact on descendants of the emigrants and perpetrators. Some aspects of the events and persons responsible remain controversial to this day.

Roland P. Michaelis retired to Prescott in 2001 following a career in the physical sciences. A graduate of UCLA, where he majored in astronomy, he worked in a variety of increasingly important technical positions at several observatories and laboratories within the United States, including the Lick Observatory, the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Roland also lectured at the San Francisco Academy of Sciences – Morrison Planetarium for many years, and served as Engineering Vice-President of the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers. Since his retirement he has pursued his interests in lapidary, gems and minerals, astronomy, and his life-long enthusiasm for the desert southwest and the study of the history of the old West.

Arizona's Overland Trail

In late 1863, a party of political appointees which included territorial Governor John N. Goodwin, was led by a military escort from Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas to Ft. Whipple, which was then located at Del Rio Springs, just north of present day Prescott. It was there that they established a temporary seat of government for the newly-established Arizona Territory. Initially, the group, which became known in Arizona history as the "Governor's Party", followed the well-established Santa Fe Trail. The last part of their 1400 hundred mile journey, however, was on Arizona's Overland Trail, a rugged,

occasionally impassable route that left the Beal Wagon Road near the present day site of Flagstaff and led into Arizona's central highlands. This presentation is the result of substantial original research by the speaker and will make use of his extensive collection of photographic images.

Bruce Fee is a Prescott icon, having lived here for nearly 70 years. As a consequence he has lived much of Prescott's history and has known many of the men and women who made it. An artist and a respected local historian, Bruce has had a long-time fascination with the trails that early settlers and the military used to traverse Arizona's rugged and often hostile environs. His efforts, both individually and in association with other trail enthusiasts, has contributed greatly to our knowledge of many of the historic trails that were important to the settlement and development of the Arizona Territory, including the one that is the subject of his talk.

Charles Henry Veil – Civil War Veteran, Indian Fighter and Arizona Pioneer

Charles Henry Veil was typical of the early pioneers who settled the vast frontier known as the Arizona Territory in the mid to late 1800's. A Civil War veteran, he came to Arizona as a U.S. Army cavalry officer posted to the Territory after the War to help protect the settlers from the Apache Indians. He established and named Camp Lowell and from there and other Army forts participated extensively in the Indian Wars of that era. After leaving the Army in 1871, he partnered with W. B. Hellings to establish the first steam flour mill in the Salt River Valley and construct the Black Canyon Wagon Road between Phoenix and Prescott. He was, indeed, one of the pioneers who contributed immensely to the early development of Arizona.

Fred Veil is a semi-retired lawyer who has lived in Prescott since 2000. A graduate of Washington and Jefferson College and the Duquesne University School of Law, he is the great grandnephew of Major Veil. From his early youth Fred has had a very strong interest in American history, particularly that relating to the Civil War the American West. He is a Past Sheriff of the Prescott Corral and a frequent speaker at the Western

History Symposium. Fred's paper on Major Veil received the award for the best "Territorial Period Paper" at the 2008 Arizona History Convention.