

# TERRITORIAL TIMES

Prescott Arizona Corral  
of Westerners International



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The ***TERRITORIAL TIMES*** is a publication of the Prescott Corral of Westerners International, Prescott, Arizona, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study, preservation, promotion and dissemination of information with respect to the real history of the American West. Price per copy is \$10.00 (\$12.50 by mail). Back copies of available issues may be ordered by mail.

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**Cover Illustration:** Frank Luke, Jr., poses next to his French-built SPAD pursuit aircraft. Famed "Balloon Buster" Luke won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his exploits in the air over the Western Front in World War I.

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May 2016, Volume 9 Number 1

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# HARPER'S WEEKLY.

JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1886



REMININGTON



On the right, Medal of Honor winner Powhatan Clark is shown in full dress uniform while wearing his Medal of Honor. On the left, the heroic action that won him the award during the Apache Wars is depicted on the cover of *Harper's Weekly* in an illustration drawn by famed western artist Fredrick Remington.

# ABOVE AND BEYOND: Arizona and the Medal of Honor

By John P. Langellier

**D**uring the winter of 1861-62, following the beginning of hostilities in the Civil War, Union officials concluded that the deeds of the American soldiers, sailors and marines who distinguished themselves in the fighting should be recognized. Early in the conflict, General-in-Chief of the Army Winfield Scott received a proposal for a medal for individual valor. Scott felt medals smacked of European monarchs and rejected the idea, but the concept found support in the United States Navy.

On December 21, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln signed Public Resolution 82, which contained a provision for a navy medal of valor. The medal was "to be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen, and Marines as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry and other seamanlike qualities during the present war."

More than six months later, a similar resolution for the United States Army became law, for "such noncommissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier-like qualities, during the present insurrection."

Although the Medal of Honor was created for the Civil War, Congress made it a permanent decoration in 1863. Since that time, more than 3,400 men and one woman have been recognized for heroic actions in the nation's battles and for other courageous efforts.

Included in this valorous cadre are 156 recipients who were cited for actions in Arizona Territory. Later, five others, who were born in Arizona, also joined this distinguished list of heroes who went above and beyond the call of duty.

With the restoration of the Union, federal troops again

concentrated on deployment to the American West. An elite group among the tens of thousands of these frontiersmen in blue followed in the noble footsteps of the bravest of the Union Army's legions of fighting men. Who were these individuals who performed so heroically in the final decades of the nineteenth century, and what motivated



Navy and Marine Corps Medal of Honor

them to perform above and beyond the call of duty?

Answering the first part of this question is one matter. Military records indicate that the recipients came from a variety of

backgrounds and diverse origins, ranging from newcomers who sailed from Ireland and other parts of Europe to a strange, promising new land, to Indian scouts who were born in Arizona as members of a people that came to be known as the Apaches. Some of these heroes became famous, but for most, their life stories have faded into history. Some of the stories of the recipients who earned prestigious decoration in Arizona continue to inspire even after more than a century has passed since their daring deeds.

## **FIRST ENGAGEMENT: Bernard Irwin**

Bernard John Irwin, who had received his MD at New York Medical College, elected to practice his healing arts as a military surgeon. In early 1861, while serving as the assistant surgeon at Fort Buchanan, word came that troops under the command of Lt. George Bascom were under attack near Apache Pass by a superior force of Apaches led by Cochise. With only 14 men of the First Dragoons, Irwin led a rescue party eastward from Fort Buchanan to link up with besieged troops. Irwin's column reached Bascom's anxious force on February 13. He strategically placed his small unit around Cochise and his men, tricking the Apache leader into thinking that Irwin had a much larger army with him. The attack broke off and decades later, Irwin was presented the Medal of Honor, for his daring actions, the earliest engagement that resulted in the bestowal of this prestigious symbol of valor.



Will Croft Barnes

## **BESIEGED FORT: Will Croft Barnes**

During 1881, an Apache holy man and prophet named Noch-ay-del-klinne preached the resurrection of dead warriors and leaders who would restore the ancestral lands of his people. His message eventually triggered a revival that ended in bloodshed, including his death at the hands of troops from the Sixth United States Cavalry who had taken him into custody. As part of the outbreak, a large party of Noch-ay-del-klinne's followers surrounded

Fort Apache. Private First Class Will C. Barnes of the Signal Corps, at great risk to his life, scaled the heights adjacent to Fort Apache to send the message for help to lift the siege, actions which resulted in his receipt of the Medal of Honor. Barnes remained in Arizona after his military service. Among his contributions to his adopted state, Barnes wrote an important reference work entitled *Arizona Place Names*.

## **SAVING HIS COMMANDING OFFICER:**

### **Bernard Taylor**

By age thirty, Missouri-born Bernard Taylor was a sergeant in the Fifth United States Cavalry. He was described as "an admirable specimen of the Irish-American soldier" and "as a daring, resolute, intelligent man, and a non-commissioned officer of high merit." On November 1, 1874, Taylor set out from Camp Verde, Arizona with a detachment commanded by First Lieutenant Charles King, in pursuit of Apaches. After making camp at

Sunset Pass, the party, including a contingent of Yavapai Indian scouts, made for high ground in order to survey the area. As King's men climbed the mesa, Apaches opened fire from ambush and struck the lieutenant in the head and eye. Eventually, another shot shattered his arm. Taylor came to the half-conscious King's aid, and while under heavy fire, carried him a half mile back to safety. Charles King's wounds eventually led to his medical retirement from the army. He would turn to writing and became a popular author of historical works and fiction, including many novels set in Arizona during the Indian Wars. On April 12, 1875, Taylor was presented the Medal of Honor for his selfless action. Two days later, he died of a lung disease.

## **WHAM PAYROLL ROBBERY:**

### **Benjamin Brown & Isaiah Mays**

During the 1880s, the Tenth United States Cavalry and Twenty-fourth United States Infantry, manned by African American enlisted personnel, arrived in Arizona Territory. In May 1889, Sergeant Benjamin Brown of the Twenty-fourth, along with eight other men from his unit and a pair of troopers from the Tenth, escorted the army payroll carried by Major Joseph Wham. When the major's ambulance and a wagon carrying the gold and infantrymen neared a narrow part of the road in the vicinity of Cedar Springs, the soldiers spied a boulder in the middle of the path ahead. As the men began to remove the obstruction, a single bullet rang out, followed

by some 15 or 20 other rounds from a dozen or more desperados, who had set up an ambush: "Firing from six well-constructed and carefully selected stone emplacements with clear lines of fire...."

The black soldiers were caught without cover. During a sharp, 30-minute firefight, eight

soldiers were hit, including Sergeant Brown who sustained two wounds, one of which was in the abdomen. Corporal Isaiah Mays of the Twenty-fourth, who was one of only three members of the tiny command who remained unscathed, crawled away from the assault. As soon as he was safe, Mays ran for nearly two miles to Cottonwood Ranch, seeking help for the surrounded patrol. The payroll fell into the hands of the bandits. As



Dr. Leonard Wood

Major Wham reported, almost all of the defenders became casualties, "while bravely doing their duty under a murderous cross-fire." The paymaster recommended Brown and Mays for Medals of Honor. On February 1, 1890, Secretary of War Redfield Proctor approved the major's request for both of these valiant foot soldiers.

## **SURGEON IN BLUE:**

### **Leonard Wood**

Little did Harvard medical school graduate Leonard Wood dream that his career would take such a turn when he came west as a young army surgeon. Despite his excellent training as a healer, he had been dismissed from Boston City Hospital for exercising too much independent judgment in his treatment of patients. After a brief stint in private practice, one of Wood's Harvard classmates persuaded the fledgling physician to seek a



commission in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Shortly after his arrival in Arizona, Wood put aside his scalpel for a six-shooter, as American forces relentlessly pursued Geronimo during the Apache leader's last days of resistance. Wood's immediate superior, Fourth United States Cavalry Captain Henry Lawton, summed up his plucky subordinate's role, reporting:

"Asst. Surg. Wood, the only officer who has been with me through the whole [Geronimo] campaign. His courage, energy and loyal support during the whole time; his encouraging example to the command, when work was the hardest, and prospects darkest, his thorough confidence and belief in final success of the expedition, and his untiring efforts to make it so, have placed me under obligations so great that I cannot express them."

A grateful military eventually recognized Wood's actions with a Medal of Honor. By 1898, he became President William McKinley's personal doctor, but left the comfort of the White House to assume command of the First United States Volunteer Cavalry, the legendary "Rough Riders." The unit and its second in command, Theodore Roosevelt, would achieve fame during the Spanish-American War. Roosevelt went on to become President and commander in chief, and in 1910 Wood was named the U.S. Army's chief of staff.

## **DEATH DEFYING RESCUE:**

### **Powhatan Clarke**

During April through May 1886, Captain Thomas C. Lebo, in command of Troop K, Tenth Cavalry, set out from Camp Grant on a 200-mile chase into Mexico against a highly mobile Apache opponent. By May 3, Lebo's force had finally closed with its illusive quarry at the Pinito Mountains in Sonora. According to one contemporary account: "The Indians held their ground and made an

attempt to get" the troopers' mounts, but their efforts were "frustrated by a covering force and a detail sent to drive the herd to the rear. Each side in the fight numbered about thirty men. Three Indians were seen to fall and to be dragged back out of fire, a pretty sure indication that they were killed or mortally wounded." Men of Troop K also sustained casualties. A Tenth Cavalryman was killed, while another black soldier, Corporal Edward Scott, "lay disabled with a serious wound, exposed to the enemy's fire...." Disregarding his own life, Captain Lebo's second in command, Lieutenant Powhatan Clarke, rushed to the corporal's "assistance, carrying him to a place of safety," while braving deadly enemy fire, an act which earned the young officer the Medal of Honor.

## **BAND OF BROTHERS:**

### **Arizona's Heroic Sons**

Fifteen native-born Arizonans have gained distinction by deeds of great valor. Eleven of these men were from a group now often referred to as the Apaches. For these American Indians, enlisting provided a means to defeat their traditional enemies, continue their warrior traditions, remain on their ancestral lands, feed and provide for themselves and their families, escape the confinement of reservation life, gain status among their people, and afford a slightly better way of life than the precarious rations issued by the government. In so doing, they attempted to live within two worlds—that of the white man and that of the traditional ways of their ancestors. Whatever their reasons for joining the military, these eleven scouts, and the four other Arizona-born Medal of Honor recipients, constitute a distinguished band of brothers.



## CHIQUITO: A Provocative Enigma

Surviving military records tell us little about Chiquito, one of ten Apache scouts from Company A who received the Medal of Honor for their actions during the 1872-73 campaign in the Tonto Basin. This hard-fought search-and-destroy operation ultimately forced the Yavapai and Tonto Apache peoples onto reservations. What is certain is that the name Chiquito appears on government rolls in reference to many scouts and other Indian males. But the man who was singled out for the Medal of Honor enlisted under General George Crook in 1872, and was assigned identification number 204. He was from a part of the Apache people called the Sierra Blanca, or White Mountains, by the U.S. Army. Evidently, he deserted, at least temporarily after the Tonto Basin operations. We do not know the name by which his family called him. What happened to him after being singled out for his heroic service also is unknown.

Another mystery revolves around Chiquito's Medal of Honor. About 1980, the planchet (metal portion of the decoration) was discovered near the Arizona community of Wheatfield, just a few miles north of Miami. The priceless medal was lying in the midst of a few flat rocks, forming a square, and covered by a bit of earth. Who placed it there? Why did they do so? Odds are we will never

resolve the intriguing story of the man and his medal.



Chiquito's Medal of Honor

## ALCHESAY: Warrior in Two Worlds

Alchesay joined Company A, Indian Scouts, probably while in his late teens. He, too, was one of the scouts recruited for the Tonto Basin campaign by Arizona Departmental Commander George Crook, and for which he earned his Medal of Honor. Alchesay rose to the rank of sergeant,

serving many tours of duty before becoming a headman among his White Mountain Apache people. He twice visited the White House and staunchly championed education, stating he wished his young people to "learn the ways of the white people but to stay true to the ways of the Indian." Bridging the old and new was a lifelong focus for the brave, wise, tireless, and resilient leader in peace and war. He died in 1932, well into his eighties.



Alchesay, White Mountain Scout

## ROWDY: End of an Era

While only 28 years old, Sergeant Rowdy of Company A, Indian Scouts, was described as being "old in war—loved campaigning and fighting and killing even better than whiskey." This tenacious campaigner received his Medal of Honor for "bravery in action against [fellow] Apache Indians" on March 7, 1890. After a Mormon freighter's murder by men presumed to be followers of the "Apache Kid" (a former scout who had turned

rogue), Rowdy served as the eyes and ears of a detachment of the Tenth United States Cavalry pursuing the perpetrators. The patrol closed with the fugitives in what was one of the last clashes of the Indian Wars in Arizona.

Rowdy's gallant actions took place as an era was coming to an end. The bloody battles that raged throughout Arizona for generations was about to give way to a territory readying itself for statehood. This transition to become the forty-eight star on the United States national colors owed much to the scores of ordinary men who willingly performed extraordinary fetes of valor that earned them the Medal of Honor in Arizona.

The story of Arizona and the Medal of Honor would not end, however, with conclusion of the Indian Wars. Since that time, these Medal of Honor recipients would be joined by five other Arizona native sons—an Army officer who campaigned against the Sioux in South Dakota, a World War I Army combat pilot, a World War II Army infantryman, and a Marine officer and an Army officer who were cited for their actions in Vietnam.

## **FAMILY TRADITION:**

### **Cornelius C. Smith**

Tucson-born Cornelius Cole Smith added luster to a distinguished military family. His father was an officer in the Union Army's California Column, who served after the war as the quartermaster at Fort Lowell in Tucson. The younger Smith enlisted in 1890. A year later he earned the nation's highest award for gallantry in an engagement against the Sioux at White River, South Dakota, where he and four other cavalry troopers successfully defended a U.S. Army supply train from a force of 300 Sioux warriors. Commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1892, Smith went on to serve in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, in the Philippines under Generals Leonard Wood and John J. Pershing, and as

an attaché in South America. His global career ended at Fort Huachuca where, as a colonel, he commanded the Tenth United States Cavalry and the post from 1918-19. He died at Riverside, California, on January 10, 1936.

## **WWI BALOON BUSTER:**

### **Frank Luke, Jr.**

Frank Luke, an American pursuit pilot in World War I, was the first airman in our nation's history to receive the Medal of Honor. Born in Phoenix on May 19, 1897, Luke enlisted in the Aviation Section of the U.S. Signal Corps in September 1917 and, following flight training, was deployed to France and assigned to the 27<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron. In a period of 17 days during September 1918—in just ten sorties—Luke shot down 14 German observation balloons and four enemy airplanes, a feat unsurpassed by any pilot in the war. On September 29, while in the process of taking out three of those balloons six miles behind enemy lines, Luke was struck in the chest by machinegun fire and forced to land in a field just west of the small village of Murvaux, where he died of his wounds. Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix is named after him.

## **THE ARIZONA KID:**

### **Manuel Mendoza**

Manuel Mendoza was born in Miami, Arizona on June 15, 1922. At age 20 he enlisted in the U.S. Army. On October 4, 1942, while serving as a sergeant in command of an infantry platoon defending Mt. Battaglia in Italy during World War II, he singlehandedly repulsed a counterattack of 200 German troops. Twice wounded, Staff Sergeant Mendoza made effective use of a rifle, pistol, carbine, Thompson sub-machine gun and hand grenades, to turn back the attack, killing 30 of the enemy in the process and securing the defense of the hill. The "Arizona Kid

initially was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Decades later, on further review, Mendoza's award was posthumously upgraded to the Medal of Honor in 2014.

Mendoza left the Army at the conclusion of the War, but re-enlisted and served in Korea. He ended his active duty service in 1953 with the rank of Master Sergeant, and returned to Arizona where he was employed in various occupations. He died in 2001 at age 79.

## VALOR IN VIETNAM

### Jay Vargas and Kern Dunagan

Native-born Arizonans, Jay Vargas of Winslow and Kern Dunagan of Superior, were recognized with the Medal of Honor for their heroic actions during the Vietnam War.

Jay Vargas is a graduate of Arizona State University and a career officer in the United States Marine Corps. On May 1, 1968, at Dai Do, Vietnam, Captain Vargas, in command of a Marine infantry company, personally led his reserve platoon to aid elements of his company who were surrounded by North Vietnam forces. Under heavy attack, and single-handedly, he silenced three enemy machine gun positions, killing 14 in the process. The following day, observing his battalion commander had sustained a serious wound, Vargas disregarded excruciating pain from wounds he had incurred the previous day, and crossed the fire-swept area to carry his commander to a covered position. His actions earned him the Medal of Honor.

Vargas retired from the Marine Corps in 1992 with the rank of colonel. He continued, however, to serve the men that he had so ably led in combat, first in important positions within the California and U.S. Veterans Affairs organizations, and more recently as one of our nation's foremost advocates for disabled veterans, making public appearances throughout the country to increase awareness of the seriousness of the physical and emotional problems encountered by many of those who have served this country selflessly.

Kern Dunagan, while born in Arizona, actually entered Army service in Los Angeles, California. On May 13, 1969, an Army infantry company commanded by Captain Dunagan engaged a numerically superior force of entrenched RNV soldiers at Quang Tin Province, in the course of which he repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire to locate enemy positions, direct supporting artillery and position the men of his company. Seriously wounded, he refused to leave the battlefield, and on two occasions risked heavy fire to rescue critically wounded men. After extricating his command from its untenable position, Dunagan, ignoring his wounds, went back to search for men who had been left behind and finding a seriously wounded soldier, carried him on his shoulders to the comparative safety of



Col. Jay R. Vargas

the unit's new position. For these actions and his inspirational leadership on the field of battle, Dunagan was awarded the Medal of Honor.



Dunagan retired from the Army with the rank of Colonel and settled in California, where he died in 1991 at age 57.

## ABOVE AND BEYOND

The heroic deeds of these men over the course of more than 125 years are representative of the 161 men who have been bestowed our nation's highest award for valor for actions in Arizona during the Indian Wars, or in subsequent wars both here and abroad. While the qualifying standards for receipt of the Medal of Honor have changed over the course of time, these extraordinary men have, *in their own time*, performed above and beyond the call of duty.



### FOR FURTHER READING:

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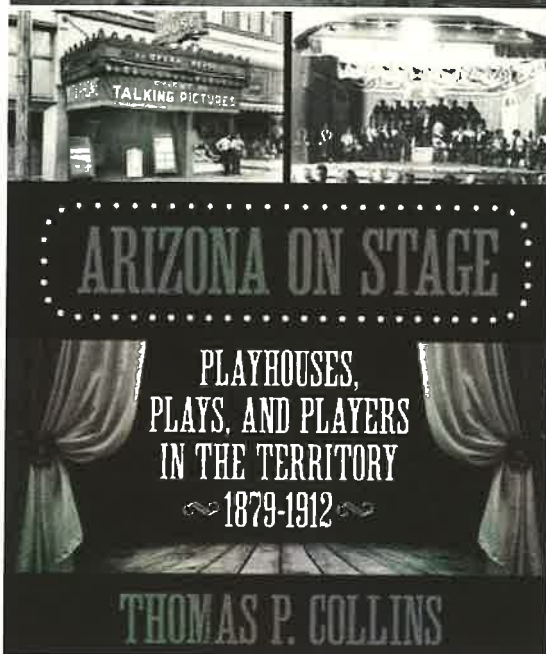
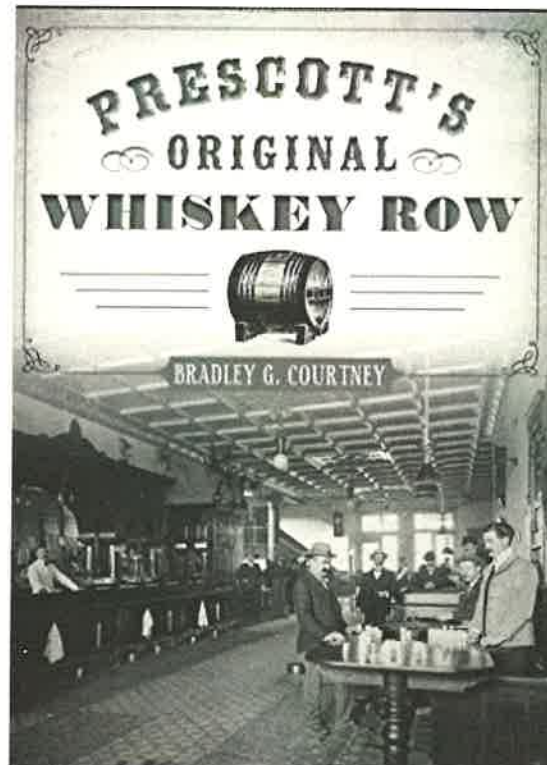
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The Prescott Corral is pleased to announce two new books of Arizona history by our members Brad Courtney and Tom Collins. Both books are available both locally and through the Internet.



# Making Do With Less: How Arizona Women Coped During the Great Depression

By Mary Melcher

**T**he Great Depression of the 1930s brought hard times to people all over the United States and made an indelible impression on those who experienced it. This article features depression-era stories shared by Arizona women through their oral histories and memoirs. They recall a decade with many difficulties, including drought, loss of jobs, and falling prices for copper, cattle, and farm crops—Arizona's primary income sources. Women in both urban and rural areas responded to this crisis by finding a variety of means to contribute economically.

President Roosevelt's New Deal brought some relief, but severe economic conditions continued throughout the 1930s. Although most New Deal employment went to men, some women found Works Progress Administration jobs in cities and towns. On ranches and farms, women from all ethnic groups bartered for needed goods and expanded their gardens as they struggled to feed their families. They diversified ranching operations to raise cash and "make do" until times improved. Migrants forced out of the "dust bowl" states, including many women and children, traveled to Arizona to work in the cotton fields, most living in tent camps. Women displayed great resourcefulness and adaptability as they struggled to hold their families together during this difficult decade.

At this time, Arizona was a rural state and in 1930, people in rural areas made up two-thirds of the population. In relation to ethnicity, American Indians were 10 percent of the population, Mexican Americans, 26%, African Americans, 2.5 % and Euro-Americans or whites, 61%. These diverse groups experienced the Great Depression in different ways.

In Arizona and throughout the West, the decade began with falling prices and unemployment. In the early 1930s, the demand for copper fell to a fraction of its 1929 level, the price of beef dropped from nine cents to three cents per pound, and cotton



Migrant Worker Family Living Near Chandler

prices plummeted from 11 cents to four cents per pound. The drastic decline in profits led to high unemployment and reduced wages for workers who retained their jobs. Because of the dramatic decline in tax revenues, even the state had a difficult time paying its employees. Some teachers went unpaid because their pay warrants were worthless. The loss of jobs led to homelessness for some.

Charities, community chests, and religious and fraternal groups attempted to provide assistance to the destitute during the hard times of the early 1930s. Most of these organizations assisted Euro-Americans. Minorities, hit the hardest by the depression, formed their own charitable organizations. In Phoenix, the Alianza Hispano Americana assisted Mexican Americans, as did Friendly House, a settlement agency for immigrants. The Phoenix Protective League, an African American association, provided clothing and food to unemployed Blacks. In Tucson, the Alianza Hispano Americana joined with other Mexican American organizations to provide food for needy children in three different schools.

In 1933, the Arizona State Legislature became involved in providing relief, establishing a state board of public welfare. Counties also established boards of welfare. These agencies were already distributing relief when the New Deal began, and their caseloads were large, with 2,455 welfare recipients in Cochise County; 7,541 in Maricopa County; and 2,405 in Pima County.

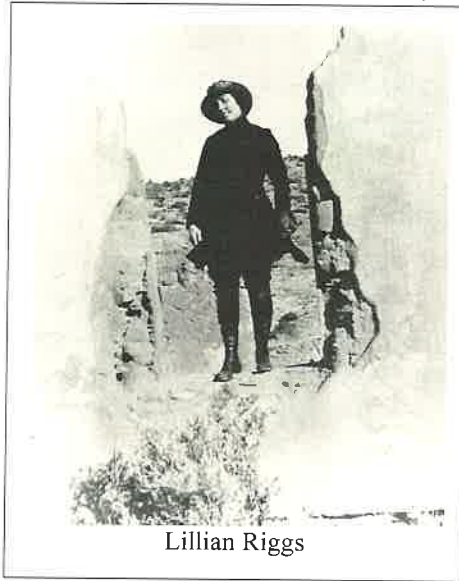
To cope with loss of income, women on farms and ranches diversified their operations or bartered for needed goods. Margaret Glenn

and her husband ranched 30 miles outside of Douglas and when cattle prices dropped in the 1930s, the Glenns began boarding children on their ranch during the summers. Beginning in 1935, children came to learn about ranch life by helping with chores. Boarding the youngsters brought in needed cash and resulted in the formation of friendships that lasted for years, said Margaret Glenn. The family also cut wood to sell in Douglas.

Some women, like Lillian Riggs, ended up running ranches alone. Lillian's husband, Edward, began managing Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) crews in the Chiricahua National Monument, an area that he and Lillian had explored earlier. They had ridden horseback in the rough mountains near their ranch and had cut some trails there. After the area became

a national monument, Edward Riggs managed trail crews for the CCC while Lillian Riggs managed their cattle and ranch.

Zola Claridge raised goats and cattle with her husband in Aravaipa Canyon in Graham County. During the terrible drought of the 1930s, they lost stock in large numbers. In order to bring in needed income, Zola became a mohair buyer for a Boston firm, traveling from ranch to ranch in Arizona and New Mexico to buy mohair and manage its shipment to Boston. Her work helped the family get through the difficult, dry years. Other women raised money by selling eggs, cheese, butter, milk, chickens, turkeys or other food items. Abbie Whatley, an African American, kept a huge chicken yard, sometimes caring for 400 chickens, and with her children's help, selling 35-40 dozen eggs a week. Mexican American women also sold food goods. For example, women of the Leon



Lillian Riggs



family processed milk to make cheese that they sold in town.

Some ranching and farming families had experienced hard times beginning in the 1920s, so the Great Depression did not bring a huge change. In the predominantly Mormon town of Eden in Graham County, Inez Carpenter farmed with her family. "That Depression never did quit and start with us ... cause we was on the farm, we had milk and butter and eggs. There was just no money to get." People bartered, raised their own food and sewed clothes from seed sacks. Some of the young men found jobs in the CCC, working in a camp in the Graham Mountains and sent home a few dollars.

Likewise, the depression did not affect the Padilla family greatly because they were used to living with little cash. Farming outside of Florence, they raised geese, chickens, pigs, cows, a few beef cattle and a large garden for the family that grew to 10 children. The Padillas and many others were used to buying clothes and shoes only after harvest or the sale of cattle. If they needed clothes before then, they got credit and paid the merchant after the sale of their crops. Like other families, they also bartered for needed goods. As an example, Mr. Padilla once traded a goose for a hat.

Fern Johnson described her family's experience on their farm near Peoria:

"The dairy and the farm and the payments always had to come first. There wasn't too much left over to put on the house. It was about twenty years before we finally had a bathroom. We always had enough food because we had chickens. We always had milk and eggs and I baked bread. Food was very cheap to buy. We tried to sell eggs at 8 cents a dozen and our cream [but we] hardly got anything for it. Our children sometimes say now, 'I don't know how you ever came through.' Many, many people didn't, they had to borrow again."

These women were fortunate in that they had land and homes. Many people became destitute during this decade and began traveling, looking for a new start in life. Historian, writer and museum founder Sharlot Hall described conditions in this letter: "The closing of the copper mines has thrown thousands of people out of work and half the towns in Arizona are like abandoned places. All winter people went away if they could go and along the railroads and highways people from farther east struggled to get into California and the warmer regions of southern Arizona. They begged for food and for gasoline to keep going—many of them having cars of some sort—and the little local settlements were just swamped as with a retreating army in war time."

Severe drought and "dust bowl" conditions in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas forced many families to abandon their failing farms and look for work elsewhere. Arizona farmers attracted migrant workers by advertising in these states. The majority of the laborers were white or Euro-American, but there were also Hispanics and African Americans. The harvest in 1938 required the labor of approximately 40,000 migrants because the price of cotton was increasing, and farmers were attempting to reap a profit. Many of these migrants lived in dilapidated and unsanitary camps. Entire families worked for an average of \$10.14 per week.

Ann Stephens traveled with her husband from Texas to Arizona to find work in the fields. When she arrived, she had only thirty-five cents in her pocket. She related in an oral history interview how discouraged she felt upon discovering the living conditions in the cotton camps: "I'd never seen people live in tents and live like they were living, cooking outside on a campfire, and sleeping in a tent, and getting up early in the morning and going out and picking cotton, and come in and, you know, just never have half enough of anything. We had always lived above that...I

never lived in a tent, and I just didn't like the looks of tent city...I thought it was the jumping off place, the end of the world. They were dirty! You know, they lived on dirt ground, and they didn't have no inside toilets. They didn't have no showers. They didn't have anything. To me, it was terrible."

Ann worked with those who lived in tents, but she was fortunate in that her father rented a house for her and her husband. Still, the living conditions of those in the camps distressed her. "Little kids running around with no shoes on, half enough clothes, half enough to eat...to me it was sickening," she said.

Through the New Deal, the Farm Security Administration attempted to help the migratory workers by creating new, sanitary camps, with pumped water and sanitary facilities. These camps assisted some workers, while many others continued to live in despicable surroundings.

Migrant children and their parents struggled to endure the cotton-picking system during the 1930s. In towns, families with homes were more settled, even though they still faced hard times due to loss of jobs. As unemployment soared, many housewives looked for jobs to replace family income lost due to their spouses' unemployment. But national policy and attitudes dictated that married women should not work. Many department stores and schools refused to hire married women. Despite these bans to women's employment during the 1930s, the proportion of married women working for pay actually increased nationally. Women faced two kinds of pressure—to help their families stay together by being nurturing, loving and domestic and to make money to help families survive economically.

Some women earned money at home by taking in laundry, boarders or sewing. Like rural women, those in towns and cities, also pinched pennies, made their own clothes and canned more food goods. Those in the workforce concentrated in the areas dominated by women—sales, clerical and service occupations. Nationally, these areas of employment were not as hard hit as traditional male industries such as manufacturing.

Unemployed women who needed relief received less assistance through New Deal programs than did men. Eleanor Roosevelt, however, pushed for inclusion of women in programs such as the Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). These programs were set up under the assumption that men were the primary breadwinners, thus women had to prove they were heads of households in order to receive FERA or WPA jobs. Jobs offered to women through these programs usually followed traditional gender roles with sewing projects employing the largest number of women. Working in sewing rooms for 50 cents an hour, Arizona women produced tens of thousands of garments, including blankets for newborns, clothing for adults and children, over 12,000 articles of bedding and even shrouds for deceased public relief clients.



Emergency Relief Act Sewing Project at Jerome, AZ

Grace Sparkes, secretary of the Yavapai County Chamber of Commerce, managed New Deal projects in Yavapai County, where FERA sewing projects provided employment to women. Sparkes organized projects all over the county to improve roads, preserve historical sites and to construct the Sharlot Hall Building (just west of the Governor's Mansion) at the Sharlot Hall Museum.

Professional women received employment through the Division of Professional and Women's Projects. Thirteen Arizona projects provided jobs to women in libraries, Braille transcription, nutrition, research, and community service. In both public libraries and courthouses, women repaired and catalogued thousands of books and documents. Women also worked in the research division of the WPA, conducting surveys and writing reports. In addition, some worked at the Old Governor's Mansion Museum (now the Sharlot Hall Museum) classifying and arranging archival materials.

Another WPA program related to domestic service. The Household Training Program trained women for domestic service work in cities and towns throughout Arizona, with the goal of moving women from classes into jobs. In Phoenix, one part of the program operated through Friendly House, a settlement agency for immigrants. During this time of segregation, it was considered unthinkable for African Americans to train with the predominantly Hispanic population at Friendly House. Instead, an African American Home Economics teacher offered training at Carver High School, the segregated high school in Phoenix. This was one of the few programs for black women. In general, people of color received less employment and other forms of assistance through the New Deal than did whites.

In a more unusual program, Viola Jimulla, a Yavapai, taught other women traditional Yavapai arts and crafts in Prescott. Viola was

an expert basket weaver who also became leader of the tribe. Her husband, Sam Jimulla, became chief of the Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe in 1935. After his untimely death in 1940, Viola assumed the office of chieftess which she held for over two decades.

During the 1930s, the so-called Indian New Deal led to programs with both positive and negative effects. John Collier, who became head of the Office of Indian Affairs in 1933, structured New Deal programs to preserve native culture and improve standards of living on reservations. He hoped to stop the forced assimilation of Indians into mainstream society by allowing youngsters to attend schools close to home. The Public Works Administration funded school projects on several Arizona reservations, including Fort Apache, Havasupai, Hopi, Papago (Tohono O'odham), Pima, Salt River, and Navajo.

Collier also supported range management and soil conservation programs to improve reservation land. Soil Erosion Service experts found that extensive over-grazing had destroyed soil and vegetation on the Navajo Reservation, resulting in severe erosion that was destroying large sections of land. New Deal leaders instituted stock reduction and other programs that led to long-lasting bitterness and distrust among many Navajos whose family incomes depended on raising sheep. Among the Navajo, a matrilineal tribe, women are the traditional owners of land and stock; therefore, stock reduction resulted in great losses for these women.

Annie Wauneka, a Navajo and daughter of Chief Chee Dodge, related a story regarding an elderly Navajo woman and her horse. Stock reduction led to people losing many animals, unless they could get a grazing permit for their stock. Annie saw the elderly woman, with her grandchild, pleading with a BIA official to get a grazing permit for a horse. The old woman said, "Can I keep that



one horse? It's all I have. I drag in wood with that horse. I go to the store with that horse." But the official said she had no business with the horse and attempted to take it away. Both the BIA official and the elderly woman were pulling on the horse's rope, when Annie grabbed the rope out of the man's hand and whipped the horse with it. The horse took off running and Annie said, "Okay, gentlemen, go get that horse." They fumed and Annie said, "Let her have the horse as long as she lives. She's not going to last too long." But the old woman lived another 30 years, until she was nearing 110!

Annie Wauneka's story displays the difficulties tribal women encountered due to stock reduction. While many in the state received positive assistance through the New Deal, for Navajos it led to long-lasting bitterness.

### SUMMARY

The diverse population of Arizona, including rural and urban women, migrants and New Deal workers, faced great hardships during

the 1930s, and most responded to this crisis by finding a variety of means to contribute economically. Although New Deal employment usually went to men, some women found Works Progress Administration jobs in cities and towns. On ranches and farms, women from all ethnic groups bartered for needed goods and expanded their gardens to feed their families. They diversified ranching operations to raise cash and "make do" until times improved. "Okies" and other migrants, including many women and children, survived the depression as best they could, as did Navajo women who lost stock and faced great hardship due to drought. These women provide examples of resourcefulness and courage. Their struggle to work and maintain their families exemplifies the best of the human spirit and people's ability to maintain hope in the worst of times.



### How One Remarkable Woman Helped Others During the Great Depression

**M**ost Arizona women struggled to outlast impoverished conditions during the Great Depression. Isabella Greenway's story was far different; wealthy and well connected, she was able to help others through her business and political connections including her efforts to institute and improve the New Deal in Arizona after becoming the state's first congresswoman in 1933.

Isabella Greenway was a lively and intelligent woman, who had been widowed twice by the time she was 40. Her first marriage to John Ferguson lasted 17 years. A year after his death, she married family friend John Greenway, a hero of both the Spanish-American War and WWI, and a mine engineer and owner. Following complications from an operation, Greenway died in 1926 after just two years of marriage with Isabella, leaving her with two children from her first marriage and one from the

second. Isabella inherited Greenway's estate and was fortunate to have strong friendships with the presidential family (She had been a bridesmaid at Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's wedding).

Isabella became active in the Democratic Party following Greenway's death, serving as Democratic National committee woman and delegate to the national convention in 1928. In Tucson, she founded a furniture factory for veterans of World War I, to give them productive employment. By 1928, the

"Arizona Hut" was selling \$37,000 worth of articles made by veterans and their wives. When the furniture factory ran into financial trouble in 1929, Isabella built a resort hotel in Tucson, both as a business investment and as a place to use the Hut furniture. The Arizona Inn opened in 1930, and continues as an Arizona landmark.

When not developing the Arizona Inn, Isabella Greenway engaged in politics. In her role as a Democratic National Committeewoman she voted for FDR's nomination in 1932 and later campaigned for him in Arizona. When Arizona's sole Congressman, Lewis Douglas, resigned his seat to take a position in the Roosevelt administration, Isabella won the special election to replace him.



Sketch of Isabella Greenway

Mrs. Greenway used her position to work for New Deal reforms, including projects to improve Arizona's economy and provide employment. She pushed for copper codes to protect Arizona's copper industry; expanded irrigation and flood control projects in Nogales and on the Verde River and lobbied for increased funding to build and improve roads in Arizona. She also responded to hundreds of letters from constituents who were in difficult financial straits.

In 1934, Isabella Greenway won election to a second term by an overwhelming majority. She continued to work to craft New Deal programs, securing public health relief for transient families, fighting cutbacks in veterans' benefits, getting additional CCC camps in Arizona, and working for the social security plan and pensions for the elderly. Several of the reforms and measures that Greenway backed became law. By 1936,

however, Isabella was tired and she decided against pursuing a third congressional term. In 1939, she married a third time, to Harry O. King. The couple lived in New York City, although Isabella continued to return to Tucson to see her children. It was on one of those visits in 1953 that Isabella Greenway King died on December 18 at the age of 67.

Isabella Greenway's life was varied and full. She had many opportunities and helped to advance New Deal programs in Arizona during a difficult decade. Most Arizona women did not have the same kinds of opportunities to help others; they were too busy making do as best they could.



SOURCES: United States Census, Department of Commerce,

*Population, 1931*; Leonard J. Arrington, "Arizona in the Great Depression Years," *Arizona Review*, 17 (December 1968); Bradford Luckingham, *Minorities in Phoenix*; Faraway Ranch Manuscript Collection, Western Archaeological Conservation, National Park Service, Tucson, Arizona; Juanita Claridge, "We Tried to Stay Refined Pioneering in the Mineral Strip," *Klondyke and the Aravaipa Canyon*, (Safford, Arizona: n.p., 1989); Margaret F. Maxwell, *A Passion for Freedom: The Life of Sharlot Hall*; Alice Kessler Harris, *Out to Work: A History of Wage Earning Women in the United States*; Carolyn Niethammer, *I'll Go and Do More: Annie Dodge Wauneka, Navajo Leader and Activist*; Kristie Miller, *Isabella Greenway: An Enterprising Woman*; Graham D. Taylor, *The New Deal and American Indian Tribalism: The Administration of the Indian Reorganization Act, 1934-45*; Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, Record Group 91, Works Progress Administration; Oral history collections including Arizona Women's Lives Project, Hayden Library, Arizona State University; Arizona Historical Society, Tucson and Tempe; Mary Melcher, "Tending Children, Chickens and Cattle: Ranch Women in Southern Arizona", dissertation, Arizona State University.

# Arizona's First Newspaper Press is Restored to Operation

By Shaw Kinsley

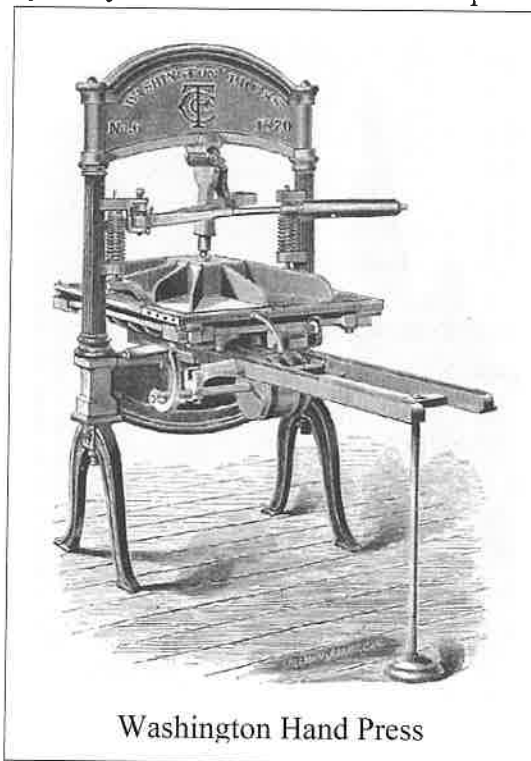
**T**ubac has many Arizona "firsts." It was the first European settlement in what is now Arizona, it is the site of the oldest Spanish Presidio in Arizona, it was the departure point for the first overland expedition by Europeans to settle Alta California, it was the first site in Arizona to use the Freiburg system of amalgamation in mining, and it was the place where Arizona's first newspaper was printed on Arizona's first printing press.

Today that printing press is one of the most significant artifacts in the Tubac Presidio museum. It is an extraordinary rarity to have the original press operating in the original site where the Arizona's first newspaper was printed.

The press is a Washington Hand Press invented by Samuel Rust in 1829. The improvements Rust made to Adam Ramage's 1818 press allowed the great weight of the platen (the plate that presses the paper against the inked type) to be applied directly to the print surface. Rust used an elbowed pulling cam with a diagonal connecting rod to change a horizontal movement into a perpendicular force. Heavy coil springs lift the platen allowing the patented rolling bed to be rolled back and the printed sheet to be removed.

After Rust sold his patented ideas in 1830, several type foundries and printing supply firms manufactured his version of the Washington Hand Press by license, including

the Cincinnati Type Foundry of Cincinnati, Ohio. It was this firm that manufactured Arizona's first printing press.



Washington Hand Press

The southern part of Arizona between the Gila River and the current international border with Mexico became part of the United States after the Gadsden Purchase was ratified in 1854. In that year, young Charles Debrille Poston made an exploratory journey through Sonora and what would become southern Arizona. He was attracted by the remains of Tubac's presidio and its

proximity to known mineral deposits to the west near Arivaca and to the east in the Santa Rita Mountains. In 1856 he returned to Tubac as leader of the Sonora Exploring and Mining Company's field operation, having raised over one million dollars in capital in Cincinnati.



Two years later, brothers William and Thomas Wrightson—who came from a Cincinnati family of printers who printed the *Railroad Record*—invested in a subsidiary of Poston's company, the Santa Rita Silver Mining Company and determined that Tubac would be a prime location for a newspaper. Older brother William acquired Tubac's Washington Hand Press from the Cincinnati Type Foundry and accompanied it on the journey west.

The press was available with seven different size beds and platens. Wrightson selected the 25" wide by 39" long model, suitable for an 8-column newspaper on folio size paper that made a four-page newspaper when folded once.

For editor, the Wrightsons hired Edward C. Cross, a journalist who had worked in New Hampshire for the *Coos County Democrat* and later reported on national politics for the *Cincinnati Times*.

An article in the *Cincinnati Daily Commercial* issue of July 27, 1858 is headlined "Ho! for the Silvery Lands of Mexico" and reads in part:

"Today the *arriere* [sic] guard of the Santa Rita Mining Company set out from this city upon their travels for Tubac, in the Territory of Arizona [sic]. ... They will start from [Port Lavaca, Texas] under the command of an old Texas Ranger. ... Their train will consist of six wagons, a drove of 130 mules, and thirty persons on horseback. Each man will be armed with Sharp's rifles and other such

warlike equipments. The wagons will be loaded with mining machinery and tools, and stores for one year's subsistence. They will also take a well-appointed printing office for the purpose of publishing the *Arizona Messenger* at Tubac. Their property is valued at \$30,000.00. They will move to San Antonio, thence West, to Pecos River, up that stream several hundred miles, and thence across to El Paso through Messilla Valley to Tubac. Their destination is the old Mexican silver mines of Santa Rita, which they design to open. Their adventures will be more pleasant to describe than to realize. ... Mr. Wrightson, who is the leading spirit of the enterprise, is well known to many of our citizens as a man of great energy and a practical rather than a visionary cast of mind.

Mr. E. E. Cross is well known as a ready and forcible writer for the press. He has made arrangements to correspond with several papers during his absence, and will likewise be the editor of the *Arizona Messenger*."

Edward Cross's job as editor meant that he was responsible for writing or otherwise obtaining news articles (it was a common practice to take stories from other publications and reprint them), for soliciting

advertisements, and for all of the printing operations to create multiple copies every week of the finished newspaper. The press arrived in Tubac in January 1859, and the first issue of *The Weekly Arizonian* came out on March 3, 1859. (Note the name respelling from that in the *Commercial*). It is thought that three hundred copies of each issue were printed and distributed in Tubac and sent



Arizonian Editor Edward Cross

elsewhere by stagecoach and courier. Issue No. 1 contains more than twenty-five stories about Mexican politics, Leach's Wagon Road, and news on the discovery of gold on the South Platte River. There are also stories of local interest including Apache depredations, military actions, and an obituary on the death of Gen. James Gadsden. Most of the advertisements are from Cincinnati firms showing the loyalty from customers of *Railroad Record* for the new fledgling paper being printed 1,578 miles away in "Tubock", as Wrightson spelled it in a letter home to his sister. But there are also ads from firms in Port Lavaca, San Antonio, and El Paso demonstrating Cross's sales ability as the wagon train made its slow and difficult journey.

Cross was a forceful writer with definite opinions. He was interested in the various efforts to get Arizona declared a separate territory from New Mexico, but he didn't like the exaggerations in population estimates and agricultural and mining reports that some proponents put forth. Cross used editorials in his own newspaper and letters to other newspapers to correct the "humbuggery" he detected in these false and exaggerated reports. It was Cross's fiery language that brought him into conflict with Sylvester Mowry, a former army officer and West Point graduate who spent much time in Washington, D.C., promoting separate territorial status for Arizona. Mowry had resigned his military commission and was

investing in Arizona land and had a serious stake in the issue of territorial status.

Mowry wrote a number of pieces published in various newspapers extolling Arizona as a peaceful paradise with an excellent climate and easily obtainable mineral wealth, frequently signing them as "Washington Correspondent." Cross had the contrary opinion that such articles were gross exaggerations that might lure unsuspecting people into an area with frequent raids, attacks, and kidnappings by Apache Indians

and Mexican outlaws, little law enforcement, and distinctly arduous and difficult mining and smelting operations. Cross wrote a rebuttal letter under the pen name *Gila* to the St. Louis *Missouri Republican* headlined, "Important from Arizona, the HUMBUG EXPLODED!" in which he took issue with an asserted population of 10,000



Duelist Sylvester Mowry

people in Arizona. "Now, whoever alleges this, alleges what is not true. Raking and scraping together every human being within the proposed limits of Arizona – American, Mexicans, and Indians, white, black, yellow, and red – you cannot make a total of eight thousand inhabitants. Summing up the entire American population, including the men employed at the overland mail stations, and allowing largely for transient persons, we barely make two hundred and fifty." This is just one example of the war of words between the two men, and when their identities were

unveiled, Mowry challenged Cross to a duel which took place in Tubac on July 8, 1859.

The account of the duel printed in the July 14, 1859 issue of the *Weekly Arizonian* is the account most widely accepted and was quoted by the *New York Times* when it described the Tubac duel in its August 5, 1859, issue:

"A difficulty having occurred between the Hon. Sylvester Mowry and Mr. Edward E. Cross, editor of the *Arizonian*, in reference to certain publications made by both parties, Mr. Geo. D. Mercer acted as the friend of Mr. Mowry, and Captain John Donaldson as the friend of Mr. Cross. Mr. Mowry being the challenging party, no compromise being effected, the parties met on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst., near Tubac, weapons Burnside rifles, distance forty paces; four shots were exchanged without effect; at the last fire Mr. Mowry's rifle did not discharge. It was decided that he was entitled to his shot, and Mr. Cross stood without arms to receive it, Mr. Mowry refusing to fire at an unarmed man, discharged his rifle in the air, and declared himself satisfied."

The spectators joined the protagonists in the "destruction" as one writer put it, of a 40-gallon barrel of Monongahela whisky. Cross was certainly correct when he wrote, "Conducting a newspaper in a frontier country is always a perilous, precarious, and thankless task."

Shortly after the duel Sylvester Mowry and William S. Oury purchased the Washington Hand Press and other assets for \$2,500.00. The next issue of the *Arizonian* (No. 22) came

out in Tubac on July 22, 1859. By the next issue, (No. 23) the newspaper was published in Tucson, and the press began an extended journey that would finally bring it back to Tubac over a century later

The press changed hands a number of times after its move to Tucson including a long stop at Tombstone and lengthy periods of idleness. It was donated to the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society in 1913, and in 1970 the renamed Arizona Historical Society loaned the Washington Hand Press to Arizona State Parks for display at Tubac Presidio State



School Group Visiting the Recreated 1859 Tubac Print Shop

Historic Park. Shortly thereafter a visitor noticed that the press, then just a static display, had its print bed in backwards. The visitor also pointed out that the press only lacked a few parts and could be restored to operating condition.

This led to a lengthy stay at Tucson for necessary repairs plus a successful search for other authentic equipment that would be needed to create an accurate pre-Civil War print shop to surround the Washington press,

including type, typecases, type stands, composing sticks, galleys, furniture (wooden spacing material), leads, slugs, reglet, ink, ink rollers, ink table, composing stone, chases, quoins, a quoin key, planer, mallet, a lye trough (to clean an inked form), a paper horse, a paper cutter, and a hundred other sundry items—all from the correct era (prior to 1856) and in good working condition.”

The restored press was returned to Tubac in October, 1980, officially on “permanent loan” by the Arizona Historical Society. Efforts to obtain the original typefaces used to print *The Weekly Arizonian* to be able to reprint an exact facsimile of the first newspaper in Arizona were not successful. Instead, line negatives of an original copy of Volume 1, Number 1 of *The Weekly Arizonian* were photographed and copper line engravings of each page of the original four-page newspaper were used to produce facsimile copies printed on the original press.

Visitors to the park now are able to witness the multiple steps needed to print an 1800s weekly newspaper, and to see them carried out on the same press that had come to Tubac in 1859.

The Washington Hand Press is one of the finest objects in the Tubac Presidio collection. It speaks to mankind’s eternal desire to communicate, and it

echoes the trials and challenges as well as the triumphs of the pioneers who brought it to Tubac in the 1850s. Its frequent moves and the variety of newspapers and works it has printed inform us about Arizona’s turbulent history. The saga of its nine-year restoration testifies to the cooperation between state agencies, and its continued presence of the press as a major exhibit in Arizona’s first state park hopefully will be a lure to entice visitors from all over the world to come to Tubac to experience Southwest history.

Since 2010, the Tubac Presidio State Historical Park has been operated by the local community of Tubac. After the legislature’s sweep of nearly all of Arizona State Parks’ cash, the ASP Board authorized an intergovernmental agreement with Santa Cruz County. The County in turn created a

professional services agreement first with the Tubac Historical Society, and then with the Friends of the Tubac Presidio and Museum, Inc. Both of these non-profit organizations are dependent on volunteers, and the Tubac Presidio has been fortunate to have volunteers from Tubac, Rio Rico, Nogales, Green Valley and as far away as Tucson to see to the seven days a week daily operations.



Arizona’s First Printing Press Shown in Operation at Tubac Historical Park





## Territorial Era Baseball in Prescott and Yavapai County

By John Darrin Tenney

**B**y the time the official census was completed for the Arizona Territory in 1870, the number of hardy souls living in the young, very rural territory was estimated at a scant 10,000. The U.S. Army had several operating camps spread out across Arizona during these early years along with a few frontier outpost towns such as Prescott, Tucson, Arizona City (now Yuma) and Phoenix.

Travel was precarious during the early days of the territory, as the Southern Pacific Railroad wouldn't expand from Yuma through Tucson until 1881. For passenger travel, mail and shipping of dry goods and other sundry supplies, residents of early Arizona relied heavily on the stage and freight lines.

Life for early pioneers, whether in town, or on farms, ranches or military posts was no easy billet. With few forms of entertainment available to serve as distractions from the toil and drudgery of frontier life, the introduction of the national pastime of baseball was a welcome diversion.

The first mention of baseball in Yavapai County occurred in April 1872 when soldiers of K Troop, 5th Cavalry stationed at Camp Hualpai issued a written challenge to the townsfolk of Prescott. The editor of the *Weekly Arizona Miner* reported that several men in town had organized a scratch baseball nine, and responded to the challenge to play a game in Prescott, "for money or amusement." Sadly, there is no further evidence of a game taking place in Prescott for prize money or simple entertainment between the soldiers of Camp Hualpai and the young men of Prescott. The story of that first game if it ever took place has been lost to history.

For the next few years, interest in baseball seems to have disappeared from the pages of the *Miner*. Finally, on May 5, 1876, baseball returned to Yavapai County when the Whipple Club and the newly formed Champion Club of Prescott met on the Plaza (today's courthouse location in Prescott) for a

game resulting in the soldiers coming away with a convincing 47-21 victory. The *Miner* wryly commented, "By which it will be seen that the Champions got badly beaten."

The members of the Prescott Champions, being various professional men about town, were in no mood to simply take a bad defeat and go home. Instead they issued another challenge to the soldiers for a return match later that month, with much higher stakes in mind. Again both sides would clash on the Plaza, with the return match being for higher stakes including a "fine Regulation Base Ball ... and the Championship of the Territory." This would mark a true turning point for the National Pastime in Arizona. This self-declared challenge would mark the first "championship" contest of any sport in Arizona's Territorial era.

By 1876, the baseball used in National League games had been standardized to uniform weight and circumference measurements. As a rule, the ball was furnished by the challenging club and would remain the property of the winning club.

The interesting thing in this challenge article in the pages of the *Miner* is that the writer of the article mentions that the Prescott Champions had "received additional players from the "Red Stockings" of Boston." This is an outrageous claim, even for the time. In looking at the travels of the Boston Red Stockings club in 1876, there are several things that make such an appearance more of a well-orchestrated hoax than a forgotten piece of baseball lore. First, on the date of the



Postgame Photo of 1877 Prescott and Fort Whipple Base Ball Teams

proposed Championship match, the Boston club was in New York for a series versus the Mutuals. Secondly, many of the members of the Prescott Champions Base Ball Club were also singers and actors in the newly minted touring musical troupe, the Prescott Minstrels.

It is likely that in the photograph taken by local photographer W. H. Willisraft of both clubs postgame we see the Champion club dressed up like members of the famous professional nine from Boston. It is highly unlikely that this player exchange could have happened, and is more likely a bit of well-meant hero worship.

The report and box score of the Championship match tells a different tale than the first time these two clubs met on the scratched out diamond on the Plaza in Prescott. The Champions of Prescott avenged

their loss earlier that month, winning the game ball and the self-imposed title of Champions of the Territory by a final tally of 49-22. As a courtesy the newspaper conceded that Arizona was a large territory and the winning club would gladly defend the newly won crown against any challenger on a field halfway from home. Subsequently, no challenges were brought forth.

Baseball again receded from the pages of the *Miner* and the entertainment palette of Yavapai County in favor of the arts. Stage shows like Gilbert & Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore* would take Prescott by storm. Previously soldiers at the post or groups like the Prescott Minstrels did melodramas and comedic farces, but nothing to the grandeur of a show like *Pinafore* including the Fort Whipple Brass band striking up the opening

chorus to rapturous applause.

Baseball waited until the spring 1880 for a long anticipated revival. It seemed that the young men in Prescott were interested in becoming more organized after emerging the victors in a contest against the soldiers at Fort Whipple by a final score of 23-17 on April 16th, 1880. Both the *Arizona Democrat* and *Arizona Weekly Miner* announced that anyone interested "In the National Game of Base Ball" was invited to a meeting that very evening held at the Prescott Library. A week later, the *Miner* reported that an estimated 28 young men had joined the ranks of the new baseball club. Formally organized and no doubt excited, the newly formed club went to the grounds at Fort Whipple for a five-inning match, where their newfound zeal for baseball found them victorious by a score of 20 to 12.

A game between Prescott and Fort Verde was held on April 30th. The *Miner* summarized the game under the headline, "Prescottites [sic] Victorious" relating the final score of 39 to 28. The *Miner* also went on, noting that this contest was the last of an informal "base ball tournament." Such a notion of an organized series of games is the first mention of any kind of a sports tournament in Arizona. The games continued into early May, when the *Arizona Democrat* briefly noted that the May Day Festival featured a pick-up game of baseball. No score, rosters or action report was given. On May 8th a regular meeting of the Prescott Base Ball Club was held to discuss the issue of equipping the club with bats, baseballs and uniforms.

By 1880, former National League pitcher turned businessman Albert Spalding was well on his way to consolidating the various makers of baseball goods under one roof. For example, in 1880 a complete uniform consisting of a jersey, knickers, cap and tall socks would have cost anywhere from \$8.00 to \$12.00 per man. A set of baseball shoes, were an extra \$2.00 to \$3.00 per pair.

Equipment was equally expensive as a "figure eight" ball could cost anywhere from 0.75 cents to \$1.50 each. Bats, if not homemade, cost between 75 cents to \$1.50. The Prescott team had other ideas that spring, such as the planned competition amongst club members for three prize medallions given to the three "best average players" in a series of practice games amongst two sides selected from the club. The idea here was to try to locate local talent for the sole purpose of propelling the club to elite status in the territory. Confidence ran high as the Prescott club was reported to face the soldiers from Fort Whipple the next afternoon at newly constructed grounds in West Prescott. No score was given. After blowing dust had cancelled games for May 15, the Prescott club postponed action for the remainder of the season. As an afterthought, the editor of the *Miner* mentioned that the Prescott club had considered the issue of having new baseball uniforms made. Not being shy on voicing an opinion, the writer for the *Miner* added, "We would recommend any color for the suits but pumpkin."

The spring of 1881 saw an increased number of baseball games between Prescott and Fort Whipple. The hometown nine also squared off against the club from Fort Verde a few weeks after receiving a challenge sent to them via the offices of the *Miner*. The soldiers from Fort Verde named themselves the Excelsiors. Allegedly, the club had its beginnings in 1879, when members of the original nine inscribed their names onto a wall inside one of the buildings still in existence today. Newspaper accounts relate that the first match for the Fort Verde Excelsiors, or "Verdes" as the newspaper called them was on May 16, 1881 versus the Prescott nine at the grounds in West Prescott.

The Verdes came ready to play and over the course of nine innings managed to win by a remarkable score of 66-27. This was an amazing feat of batting prowess since the

starting catcher for the Verde nine had badly injured a finger during the course of the match, enough to earn mention in the paper that he had to be replaced in the third inning. The *Miner* reported the game as a stinging loss but was highly complementary to the visiting soldiers, saying, "but as a crowd they are all good players" who understood the game and would be tough to beat. Despite such a demoralizing loss may have discouraged lesser baseball clubs, but instead the *Miner* took the opportunity to issue a call for more practice so that they could "give the Verde boys a strong rattle."

The *Phoenix Herald*, having seen the box score from the game in a copy of the *Miner* offered a stinging jab at the Prescott nine a few days later stating "even our boys would be ashamed of such a score." To soften the blow of such a statement, the *Herald* questioned the whereabouts of the Phoenix club who had recently suffered several demoralizing defeats at the hands of soldiers from Fort McDowell. Some townsfolk in Prescott might have thought the partial solar eclipse, viewable from town that day, might have had some kind of effect on their ball club.

Early baseball grounds like the one in West Prescott were notorious for being rough and rocky. In this era, scores could be very high due to the fact that most if not all players on the field were playing without any kind of glove. Adding in the uneven nature of a rough ball field made each contest an uncertain adventure that was error filled.

Baseball receded from the local scene for a few years, but sprang back to life in the summer of 1884. Two new clubs emerged, the Milligans and the Rifles. The *Miner* announced a game on July 25, adding that some "very fine playing" could be expected at the old baseball grounds in West Prescott. The score or game report was never printed. The games ceased until the following spring

when two picked nines had a pickup game comprising of "the best local players." The match must have been a lackluster affair as the action or box score was never printed.

1885 saw both a renewed rivalry between Prescott and Fort Whipple and the emergence of a new baseball nine dubbed the "Sheriff's Nine." Local Yavapai resident and lawman Billy Mulvenon was the captain. However, there was no report if any match between the Sheriff's nine and the soldiers at Fort Whipple ever took place.

The return match between old familiar foes of Prescott and Fort Whipple did not disappoint, featuring a new pitch used by the soldier that no one in Prescott had ever seen before, the curveball. The match was dubbed a "friendly game" between the two clubs with the soldiers finally emerging the victors in a 31 to 23 affair. The *Miner* defended the hometown nine, replying that, "The town boys were not accustomed to the curve racket." A return game was set for the following week in West Prescott.

The following year saw the baseball grounds moved from the race track on the west side of Prescott to the east part of town, and a new baseball nine came onto the scene. The militia unit, named the Prescott Grays had formed a baseball nine as early as March of 1886. The first few games played by the Grays were practice games amongst members of the militia unit, later came games against other clubs in the area. With the absence of a regular club nine from Prescott, the men of the Grays along with members of the Rifles Militia group along with volunteer fireman teams "Toughs" and "Dudes" went to the new baseball grounds for what the *Miner* dubbed, "a quadrangular game of base ball." An odd arrangement, which was probably a pickup games between two clubs of nine chosen from those representing the three groups. The final score of 38 to 18 was reported but no winner declared. The two new groups would soon



lose interest in baseball, disappearing from the sports scene altogether by the end of the year.

The soldiers at Fort Whipple decidedly re-invented themselves as a baseball club for the 1887 campaign. Naming themselves the "Redstocking Base Ball Club" signed up to participate in the inaugural baseball games for the 1887 Territorial Fair. The games were to be played at the original fair grounds, located on Central Avenue just north of the Salt River in downtown Phoenix. The program that year included displays and decorations of all kinds, foot races, horse racing and for the first time, baseball. Four clubs from across the territory were invited to compete for the "Territorial Championship" to be awarded by the fair committee at the conclusion of the weeklong festivities. Among the participants were the Phoenix Baseball Club, the Tombstone B.B.C., the Yuma Aztecs and the Fort Whipple Redstockings.

After defeating the Tombstone club in two consecutive games, the Phoenix lads awaited the victors of the Yuma versus Fort Whipple series. Fort Whipple emerged victorious in easy fashion to advance to the Championship series against Phoenix. The *Arizona Gazette* was complimentary towards the Redstockings of Fort Whipple saying, "Our base ball boys feel equal to the emergency notwithstanding the soldier lads are as splendid looking set of men and are as good as they appear." With all the talk going on, betting ran heavy on the outcome of the series between the two clubs. Upwards of \$250 per side had been wagered to "much interest of this city" for the winner of the series title of Territorial Champion. Phoenix and Fort Whipple squared off on October 26th, and after a close contest for much of the game, Phoenix pulled ahead in the late innings to secure a 12 to 5 victory. However the opening game win came with a healthy dose of controversy.

The *Arizona Gazette* related the action and the

box score, also noting that the starting pitcher for Phoenix, a gentleman named Powers, had been "long disabled" and could not start the opening match against the visiting nine from Fort Whipple. Interestingly enough, the *Gazette* notes that this club was a mixed club made up of soldiers from the post and members of the Albuquerque Browns. Phoenix used a player named Al Hapeman, a former star pitcher with the Sacramento Altas of the upstart Pacific Coast League. Using a professional player of Hapeman's caliber, termed as hiring a "ringer" or "crack player", was seen as cheating. No doubt many loud protests were voiced to the umpire and the fair organizers once the identity of the Phoenix ball twirler was known.

The next day the *Gazette* noted, "It was said that a small sized kick is brewing between the contestants in the base ball game." This statement was putting things mildly. The Territorial Fair directors decided to act in hopes of saving the reputation of the fair and possibly salvaging the rest of the games that were scheduled. Instead of allowing Phoenix to walk away with the first victory of the series, instead the committee agreed with the protests of the visiting nine, declaring Hapeman as an illegal player and stripping the win from Phoenix. This decision set off a firestorm in the pages of both the *Arizona Weekly Miner* and the *Arizona Gazette*. The first shots fired appeared in the pages of the *Gazette* on October 19 when the editor wrote a special column on the disputed game under the headline "Don't Squeal Boys." In the column, the editor for the *Gazette* asserted that the ruling by the Territorial Fair association was unfair and came from an unknown source. The *Gazette* also concluded that the decision was hasty, choosing to end the column with two sharply directed barbs at the Fort Whipple club saying, "If the Whipple-Albuquerque nine are not able or willing to cope with the Phoenix nine, why don't they say so and retire, and not protest



Prescott Baseball Club Circa 1910

against the participation of one of their competitors.” Then adding, “but if we were the soldier boys we would stand up and take our medicine without squealing.”

Readers of the *Miner* saw these printed jabs, prompting a response under the penname of “JUSTITIA.” In a long letter, the unknown author defended the honor of the “Whipple Reds” while making a few retaliatory barbs towards the Phoenix club. The back-and-forth of the two newspapers went on for a few weeks. Meanwhile, the territorial fair organizers decided to have one more match under the guise of being an exhibition game only. Neither prize money nor official title was awarded. The only record of the game was printed in the pages of the *Gazette*. Mixed in with results from all of the other races and competitions, the final score was noted as 17 to 8 in favor of Fort Whipple.

Baseball wouldn’t be played at the fair again until 1890. By then, the games would be played at Patton’s Park, now known as East Lake Park on 16th Street and Jefferson in downtown Phoenix.

Baseball remained a favorite sport among the soldiers and townsfolk of Yavapai County. Eventually the game would help mark holiday occasions such as the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and, on occasion, Christmas.

The Fourth of July Celebration in Prescott was a bash that lasted for six days with all kinds of decoration, pomp and circumstance, games, races and a baseball tournament that welcomed the traveling Albuquerque Browns in for the festivities and a \$250 prize. The Fort Whipple and Prescott Baseball Clubs would also compete in the games. Eventually, the superior Browns would easily win the tournament, causing the *Journal Miner* to concede, “It is a fine nine.”

Early residents of Yavapai County played an important part in the growth of the National Pastime in the Arizona Territory in supporting local teams and welcoming in traveling clubs from across the Arizona Territory and from other states as well.



## **ABOUT US**

The award-winning Prescott Corral ([www.prescottcorral.org](http://www.prescottcorral.org)) was founded in 1962 as an affiliate of Westerners International ([www.westerners-international.org](http://www.westerners-international.org)), an organization dedicated to the preservation of the real history of the American West.

The Prescott Corral has a well-earned reputation for excellence in preserving Western history through its monthly dinner meetings, the annual History Symposium it co-sponsors with the Sharlot Hall Museum, and its contributions to other area historical preservation groups.

Most recently the Prescott Corral has won the WI "Heads up Award" for 2013 and 2014, and Al Bates won the WI Coke Wood Award for 2014 for his monograph "Prescott Begins."

## **ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTORS**

**Shaw Kinsley** has a degree in Library Science from Pratt Institute. With a particular interest in rare books and archives, he has worked at the New York Academy of Medicine and Cornell University Medical College. He has worked as project archivist at the University of Arizona's Center for Creative Photography, as well as in numerous private collections around the country. Shaw is currently the director of Tubac Presidio State Historic Park.

**John Langellier** received his BA and MA in history from the University of San Diego and his PhD with an emphasis in military history from Kansas State University. He is the author of dozens of books, monographs, and articles on various historical topics and is a long time consultant to film and television. Recently retired, he counts as a favorite job held, his time as the executive director of The Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott, Arizona.

**Mary Melcher** completed her Ph.D. in American history at Arizona State University in 1994. She currently manages the education program at Sharlot Hall Museum. She has also worked as curator and educator at the Arizona Historical Society and on numerous public history projects. In 2012, she published *Pregnancy, Motherhood and Choice in Twentieth Century Arizona* with the University of Arizona Press.

**John Darrin Tenney** spends his time watching as much baseball as he can while expanding his blues vinyl collection, playing an occasional game of chess, reading a good book or working in his garden. John also has presented several lectures on early baseball in Tombstone, Tempe and Phoenix to interested audiences at different museums and historical sites across Arizona. He also plays 1860's baseball as a part of the Arizona Territories Vintage Base Ball League, which he founded in 2008.

## **ABOUT THE BACK COVER**

This 20<sup>th</sup> Century reproduction of Arizona's first newspaper, Vol. 1, No. 1 of the Weekly Arizonian, was printed on the original Tubac press over a century later.



## No. 1

**KANSAS GOLD RIVER.**—The reports from the South Platte gold region announce new discoveries of the precious metal and a large yield. The gold is fine black, or scale gold, intermixed with boulders, coarse gravel, and sand, the whole of which is from sixteen inches to two and a half feet in depth, and deposited upon a hard cement, resembling in appearance baked clay or lava; this is termed the bed rock, and is covered at a distance of from three to six feet below the surface.