



Cornville Historical Society

E-MAIL NEWS

P.O. Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325

Issue No. 1

June 2008

The mission of the Cornville Historical Society is to gather, preserve and share information about the history of rural life within the Cornville postal area from 1860 to the present.

In this issue:

- ***E-Mail Newsletter Makes Debut***
- ***AHS Outreach Historian Jim Turner Guest Speaker at Annual Meeting***
- ***Board Elects Officers for 2008-09***
- ***Strategic Plan Adopted***
- ***Cornville's First Families Identified from Old Land Records***
- ***Help Wanted for Oral Histories***
- ***Update on "Mystery Marionettes"***
- ***Help Us "Make History"***

E-mail Newsletter Makes Debut: This is our first e-mail newsletter, which will be issued on a periodic basis to bring members up-to-date on Board actions & provide information about activities. In the past, the Society has tried to hold informational meetings on a quarterly basis; however, scheduling has not always worked out. Now, the Board of Directors has agreed to issue occasional newsletters and informational meetings on topics of particular interest. Please share your ideas and let us know what you think!

AHS Outreach Historian Jim Turner Guest Speaker at Annual Meeting: On March 6, the Society held its third annual meeting, which included a 2007 progress review, financial report, budget adoption & election of board members. Guest Speaker Jim Turner, Community Outreach Historian for the Arizona Historical Society, talked about "Growing a Successful Historical Society". He stressed the need to establish parameters for the society's work and determine its scope in terms of time and place. "If you don't get the real history, others will make it up for you," Turner said. "You need to talk to oldtimers, gather information about pioneer families, sites and structures; and create notebooks." He suggested establishing a reading room, where files could be kept and members could meet.

Board Elects Officers for 2008-09: On March 26, the Board of Directors chose Betsy Cook, President; Sharon Morehouse, First Vice President; Linda Allen Kappel, Second Vice President; Cheryl Chamberlain, Secretary; and Fay Page Mauk, Treasurer. Other Board members are Bev Dana, Carol Lungren, Judy Miller and Jan Tomlinson. The officers serve one-year terms, until March 2009.

Strategic Plan Adopted: At its June 19 meeting, the Board discussed a proposed strategic plan that will chart the Society's direction for the next five years. In addition to a basic mission statement that establishes the Society's scope, the four-part strategy includes goals and objectives to (1) Gather Historical Information; (2) Store Materials Safely; (3) Inform Community & Maintain Visibility; and (4) Strengthen the Organization. Priorities are established for basic research, with emphasis on oral histories, an inventory of historic sites and structures; and cooperative projects. The Society would like to find a secure "meeting place" somewhere within the community where historical materials can be stored and members can meet. Acquisition of equipment and archival quality storage supplies is planned. Informational meetings, publicity (including this newsletter), and connections with other historical societies will help maintain visibility and

provide information to the public. Ideas for a “signature fundraiser event” are being considered; as well as ways to increase membership. We will be referring often to the Strategic Plan!

Cornville’s First Families Identified from Old Land Records: An initial review of General Land Office records is now complete, resulting in a list of all the original homestead patents for the Cornville-Page Springs area. The review covers Townships 15 and 16 N., R. 4 E., Gila-Salt River Meridian, Yavapai County, Arizona; and the homesteads are shown on a base topographic map. Now that the first part of the review is completed, the Society can officially name all the settlers that received the first Federal land patents. The records show that the first five homestead patents in our area, all in the 1880’s, were issued to: **(1) Abraham Kiewe, May 15, 1880** (160 acres just north of Stewart Hill); **(2) Benjamin F. Copple, August 20, 1885** (160 acres that later became the Page Ranch and is now the State Fish Hatchery); **(3) Samuel C. Dickinson, August 20, 1885** (160 acres at the north end of Aspaas Road); **(4) William D. Powell, April 21, 1888** (160 acres between Loy and South Aspaas Roads); and **(5) James T. Munds, December 16, 1889** (80 acres in Hidden Valley, where Sen. John McCain’s cabin is now located). During the 1890’s, twelve more patents were issued; bringing the number to 18 issued before the turn of the century. Further study and a full report will be prepared and made available later this year. Next, the Society will be working to learn as much as possible about the “first families”, their descendents, and their life in Cornville. An ultimate goal will be to honor them in some way. The contact for information about the study is Judy Miller at 649-1916 or dvnydymlr@cableone.net.

Help Wanted for Oral Histories: Biographical information and interview forms have been developed; and oral interviews are now being scheduled. A team of at least two Board members will conduct each interview, which will include completion of a biographical information form, tape recording, photos, and any other information the interviewee might provide to develop a first-person record of Cornville’s history. A few interviews and presentations have already been documented by the Society, but a concerted effort will continue to reach as many “old timers” and people who have historical information and experiences to share. If you know of someone who should be added to the list of potential interviewees, contact Sharon Morehouse, Oral History Chair, at 634-8927 or stevsharmor@msn.com; or Betsy Cook at 634-1396, bbcook@q.com. As interviews are completed, we’ll be sharing results!

Update on the Mystery Marionettes: The mysterious marionettes that the Society acquired from Oak Creek School and Clemenceau Museum are now right back where they began, at the home of new Society board member Carol Lungren. After news publicity last fall, Carol responded that she was the one who donated them to the school many years ago. Now, she plans to rehabilitate the puppets and write a script about their adventures in Cornville over the past few years. The idea will be to present a play and package the figures and accessories for educational use by schools or other groups. Stay tuned for more information as the project progresses.

Make History! The Cornville Historical Society is excited about the growing interest in its activities over the past couple years; and welcomes new members all the time. Annual dues are just \$15 for individuals; \$25 for families; and \$50 for businesses/organizations. Contributions are always welcome, too! Upcoming activities and events include an **Annual Membership Drive in the Fall**, another **E-Mail News in October**, a **Fundraiser Yard Sale November 7-8**; and **Holiday Meeting with a special guest speaker in December**. We’ll keep you posted! For information, contact Bev Dana at 639-2988 or bgdana@cableone.net

Cornville Historical Society Board of Directors: **Betsy Cook**, President, 634-1396; **Sharon Morehouse**, First Vice President, 634-8927; **Linda Allen Kappel**, Second Vice President, 634-4698; **Cheryl Chamberlain**, Secretary, 639-0865; **Fay Page Mauk**, Treasurer, 634-4987; **Bev Dana** (Membership), 639-2988; **Carol Lungren** (Puppet Project), **Judy Miller** (Publicity), 649-1916; & **Jan Tomlinson**, 301-2161.