



CORNVILLE COURIER

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Annual Meeting, March 19, 2020 – Join Us!

The 15th Annual Meeting of the Cornville Historical Society will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2020, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., at the First Southern Baptist Church, 11340 Circle Dr., in Cornville.

The agenda includes the CY 2019 Reports, CY 2020 Budget and the Election of Board members. Board members nominated for election: Tracey Campbell, Janet Cassagio, Sharon Morehouse, Nita Rinehart and Diana Stipek. Refreshments will be available throughout the meeting.

Following the business portion of the meeting, we will have a special program featuring Kip Williams. Kip is a retired geologist with more than 40-years of world-wide mining experience having held various positions in mining companies from exploration geologist, district geologist, geological manager, vice-president to president. He travelled extensively including Central and South America, Russia and New Zealand. Experience spans the metallic and precious metals industries, industrial minerals, coal and environmental reclamation. He currently serves as Director of the Clemenceau Heritage Museum in Cottonwood. His presentation covers the world-famous Gypsum Caves discovered in an underground lead-zinc-silver operation near Naica, Chihuahua, Mexico.



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This meeting and program are open to all interested parties free of charge. Please join us and bring a friend!

Holiday Fundraiser Event, December 8 – A Success!

The Cornville Historical Society held its Annual Holiday Fundraiser Event on December 8, 2019 at 1 pm. The program, scheduled to be held at Tres Hermanas Ranch, at 10647 E. Swinging Bridge Ln., in Cornville, was moved to Oak Creek School on the day of the event due to rainy weather during the days preceding the event creating muddy conditions at the ranch. The program included a presentation by Janet Cassagio about the history of the ranch area from 1877 to the present, followed by a wonderful performance by the Tres Hermanas resident cowboy poet, Phil Bonine. The audience loved him! Thanks, Phil.



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Refreshments, purchased and donated by our members, were provided throughout the program and about 20 gift baskets filled with merchandise, wine and gift certificates were raffled off. The event netted just under \$1,000 to support historical society activities. Thank you to all those who supported this raffle and bought so many tickets!

The society wishes to express our sincere gratitude to Ernesto Castro, owner of Tres Hermanas Ranch for his support and assistance in making this event possible. Also, thank you to the local businesses and individuals who donated items for the gift baskets including: Blazin' M Ranch, Canyon Mesa Country Club, Coyote Trails Golf Course, Cornville Mercantile, DA Ranch Wines, Javelina Leap Vineyards & Winery, Oak Creek Winery, Out of Africa Wildlife Park, Page Springs Cellars & Vineyards, Up the Creek Grill, Verde Canyon Railway, Windmill Gardens and Society board members – past and present. Thanks to all for assisting us to make this event a success.



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Once Upon a Creek in Cornville (from our files)



The 1876 Census

The 2020 federal census is getting underway so I thought I would take a look at earlier census reports for our area. Imagine my surprise when the first article I came across was one printed in The Arizona Citizen (Tucson), on September 2, 1876, entitled, "The Census Fraud," and stating a complaint had been filed against the county questioning the census returns. The article summarized the census results for the Arizona Territory, stating the populations of Pima as 8,117; Maricopa 3,702; Pinal 1,600; Yuma 2,212, Mojave 822; and Yavapai 13,661, making a total population of 30,114. This meant Yavapai County contained more than 45% of the total population.

In disputing the numbers claimed by Yavapai County (13,661 inhabitants, excepting officers and soldiers of the military service and all Indians), the article lists the number of inhabitants by community and goes on to provide a comparative list of the actual number they believe each community has, which totals 3,363 individuals. For example, it lists the census number for Rio Verde, which is probably what was the Rio Verde Reservation area, 10 miles to each side of the Verde River, including Cornville, Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Middle Verde and Camp Verde, as being 881 people, while their actual number is 250. It shows the census number for Beaver Creek as 277 with their actual number as 18. You get the picture!

Upon further investigation, this became a captivating story of our early history. Some background information is necessary to understand this article. The capital of the Arizona Territory was established in Prescott (1864 – 1867) but was moved to Tucson (1868 – 1878), back to Prescott (1879 – 1888), and finally to Phoenix (1889 until statehood). The moves took place as political power shifted and the territory grew, developed and stabilized. Each move was controversial, with a good deal of squabbling both in the legislature and in the newspapers. In the case of the 1876 census, it would determine the number of representatives appointed for each county to attend the 9th Arizona Territorial Legislature session.

Related to the Yavapai County census, The Arizona Weekly Miner (Prescott) reported on April 7, 1876, J. H. Behan, Esq. was appointed Census Marshal for Yavapai County by the Board of Supervisors. The same paper reported on July 21, 1876 J. H. (*John Harris*) Behan, Esq. had completed the census and since the numbers appeared true and correct, the supervisors ordered he be paid \$400 for his work. The article also stated the total population of the County, "which includes, of course, big, little, old, young, male, female, black, white and red," to be 13,738. Oops, the same paper on August 11, 1876, stated, "In reference to the labors of the Census Marshal, on the 21st of July, we inadvertently added 'red' to the list of those enumerated, whereas there are no people in Yavapai

denominated 'red,' and if there were they would not have been listed in the census returns. Almost the entire population of Yavapai County are white people."

Also, on August 11, 1876, an editorial in The Arizona Weekly Miner quotes a claim by another newspaper, The Tucson Citizen, claiming John Behan tampered with election results for



Little Colorado in 1874. The tampering had to do with the number of votes cast. The Arizona Weekly Miner claims this was debunked and even if a fraud did take place it was not by John Behan. Just an addendum, John Behan (pictured here) was sheriff of Yavapai County from 1871 – 1873, appointed to the legislature from

Yavapai County in 1877, went on to be sheriff of Cochise County in 1881 and is best known for his opposition to the Earp brothers during and after the Gunfight at the O. K. Corral.

Back to 1876... By September, Pima, Pinal and Yuma County Supervisors had filed a complaint in the 1st Judicial District Court requesting the Yavapai County census results be suppressed as fraudulent and set aside. The war of words between the newspapers continued through September and October until the judge, G. C. W. French issued his opinion, as reported in in The Arizona Weekly Miner on October 13, 1876, stating he denied the injunction and would not suppress the results of the census, not because the information was correct or incorrect, but because it was not in his power to do so. The judge argued, based on law, the Secretary of the Territory was solely responsible for accepting or denying the results of the census numbers. The Secretary of the Territory, John B. Hoyt, accepted the census numbers. The 9th Arizona Territorial Legislature session in January 1877 voted to move the capital of the territory from Tucson to Prescott, effective January 1, 1879. This just proves census results are important.

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OLLI Local History Program

The Cornville Historical Society is proud to join with six other historical societies (Beaver Creek, Camp Verde, Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Jerome and Sedona) to present classes on local history as part of the Yavapai College Osha Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). The classes run six sessions, with each historical society presenting one of the sessions. The classes are offered three times a year, at the Sedona Campus in the fall, the Clarkdale Campus in the winter and the Camp Verde Library in the spring. After successful completion of the fall session in Sedona, the winter session is underway, running classes from January 28 through March 3, with the Cornville Historical Society presenting on March 3. The historical societies change their program for each session.

Once Upon a Creek in Cornville (from our files)

1876 – 1879 News Clippings



Captain Andrew Jackson and his wife, Margaret are credited with being the first white settlers in Cornville, arriving in the Spring of 1876. Captain Jackson filed his homestead application on May 4, 1876, for an area bounded today on the south by Swinging Bridge Road and going north into Oak Creek Valley. The following news items appeared in The Arizona Weekly Miner, (Prescott), mentioning Captain Jackson:

December 15, 1876: "A. Jackson, the pioneer of upper Oak Creek, has taken the first hives of bees into that section, which is one of the best farming and grazing localities in the county."

August 24, 1877: "Capt. A. Jackson, who came to Arizona from Washington Territory, about eighteen months since, is now the happy owner of a valuable ranch on Oak Creek, a tributary of the Verde, where he has plenty of water to irrigate his fine farm. The Capt. took out, last winter, a large irrigating ditch, which cost him heavily, but it was an investment that will pay him the principal back this season, besides leaving him a large profit and the owner of a valuable ditch, an article indispensable in this section of the world. The crops on the different ranches, some twelve in number, are reported excellent. The health of the settlers is good; owing probably to the fact that they enjoy the privilege of drinking about the purest water to be found in Arizona." From society member,

Judy Miller, this would describe Jack's Ditch, which is still in use. Thanks, Judy!

August 30, 1878: "Capt. Jackson, of Oak Creek, near the old reservation 15 miles above Camp Verde, was in town during the early part of the week and informed us that the corn crop on the Verde is most excellent, a great deal of which will yield 100 bushels to the acre. The Captain is one of the representative men of that section of our county and we would be glad to see his name presented to the voters of Yavapai for the legislature, especially as he is in favor of making many necessary and beneficial changes in our laws, etc. The Captain is in favor of separating the Assessor and Collector's office from that of the Sheriff and making the office of Probate Judge elective, the opening of county roads, etc., all of which are things very essential for the general good of the county." There was corn in Cornville!

June 13, 1879: "Our friend, Capt. Jackson of Oak Creek, arrived in town yesterday and informs us that the crops in his section are not equal to those of last season, however, a fair crop will be gathered. On the Verde, harvesting has commenced and the farmers are quite busy. Capt. Foster, of Stoneman's Lake, an old pioneer in the Rocky Mountains, accompanied Capt. Jackson to town and is looking hale and hearty. Captain Jackson is one of the representative men in the Verde country and is known only as a true, honorable gentleman."

June 13, 1879: Letter to the Editor, "Preparations for the Fourth: The citizens of Upper Verde and Oak Creek assembled at the schoolhouse on the 31st day of May pursuant to due notice given, for the purpose of making arrangements to celebrate the coming 4th of July. After stating the object of the meeting, Geo. Richards was chosen chairman and J. A. Vandarien Secretary. After appointing the usual committees for the fourth, Mr. Jackson of Oak Creek, was chosen President of the day, Mr. Munds Marshal, G. V. Kell first and C. Bristow second Assistant Marshals. Parson Bristow was elected to open the services with prayer, G. W. Hull to read the Declaration of Independence, L. M. Olden to deliver an oration and M. A. Ruffner to deliver a poem. A general invitation is extended to attend the picnic dinner to be held and given at the Cottonwood Grove above Strahan's ranch. By publishing the above you will oblige many readers of your valuable paper. Geo. Richards, President. J. A. Vandarien, Secretary. Verde, May 31, 1879." The secretary may have been James A. VanDeren.

Cornville Historical Society 2017 – 2018 Board of Directors

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