



CORNVILLE COURIER

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Annual Meeting, March 17, 2022 – Join Us!

The 15th Annual Meeting of the Cornville Historical Society will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2021, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., at the Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1090 S. Page Springs Rd., in Cornville.

The agenda includes the CY 2021 Reports, CY 2022 Budget and the Election of Board members. Board members nominated for election: Sharon Morehouse, Pat Nomm, Nita Rinehart, Diana Stipek and Karen Wilkens. Free 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 on the Board 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.

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

Help! The Cornville Historical Society needs a Treasurer, Board Member, Membership Chair, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, researcher and/or a person with computer skills

The current Board of Directors for 2021 – 2022 includes Tracey Campbell, Janet Cassagio, Cheryl Chamberlain, Sharon Morehouse, Veronica Moody, Nita Rinehart, Cindy Snyder and Diana Stipek. There is one vacant board position and additional ones as of March 2022.

Current board member and treasurer, Janet Cassagio, is moving away from the Verde Valley this spring. Currently she is serving as a member of the board, treasurer, newsletter editor, webmaster and doing research and presentations for the society. All of these positions need to be filled, either in part or in full by someone. None of these jobs, individually, requires a lot of time, for example the newsletter is written only twice per year.

The board generally meets five times per year in October, November and January to March and organizes the Holiday Meeting and the Annual Meeting. If any member reading this is interested in filling these vacancies and serving on the board, please contact Sharon Morehouse at (928) 634-8927 or stevsharmor@msn.com.

The Cornville Historical Society also needs a Membership Chair. While a bit hectic at membership time, the overall job is not very time-consuming and is simplified through the use of Excel.

In lieu of taking on a full vacancy, the historical society would consider someone with computer skills who could assist us with entering information using Word, Excel and on our website. If you would like to know more about what is required and would like to volunteer to help the organization with this task, please call or email Janet Cassagio at (928) 649-1426 or janetcassagio@me.com.

Success! Our 2022 Holiday Event

The Cornville Historical Society held its Annual Holiday Fundraiser Event at Oak Creek Elementary School, on Sunday, December 5, 2021. It was great to see many of our members and friends back after a two-year hiatus.

The program featured a history presentation on 11 different Cornville School locations by Society researcher Janet Cassagio. Holiday treats and beverages were served during the event. The program was followed by the Society's popular raffle of holiday baskets featuring gift certificates and themed items. It was a happy and heartwarming time when a fourth-generation Oak Creek School student, Paige Badger patiently and affably assisted us with shuffling, drawing and disposing of raffle tickets for 18 baskets and on the 19th and final basket chose her own ticket for the one basket she really wanted; it included a stuffed bear. Those present were good-humored when we found out some people are luckier than others, not mentioning the name of one guest who took home five baskets.



The society would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to the local merchants who provided us with gift certificates and merchandise, including Cornville Mercantile, Farm A Go-Go, G's Burgers, Manzanita, Javelina Leap and Page Springs Cellars. We encourage you to visit and support these Cornville merchants and thank them for donating to us. We also wish to thank our members, family and friends who donated items for the baskets, and assisted us with the setup and take down. We could not have a successful event without you!

A Holiday Gift from Cornville, Maine

The wreath on display at our holiday event was a gift from Quinn's Tree Farm in Cornville, Maine, to the citizens of Cornville, Arizona. The story behind the gift... Anne Matano, who lives in Oak Creek Valley, once lived in Cornville, Maine. Her friend Matt Quinn and his family still live there and own a Christmas Tree Farm. The Quinn family is also affiliated with the Cornville Historical Society there. They regularly send Ann and her husband, Dave a Christmas tree and this year offered to send a wreath to be placed somewhere in our community. After some discussion on the Cornville Bulletin Board on Facebook, it was suggested it be placed on the Old Post Office, which happened on December 9, 2021.



Two additional highlights of our event included the first exhibition of a framed, water-color painted by Winifred Stryker, daughter of the Reverend Jacob Frey, of the West Oak Creek School built by her dad in 1921. The painting was donated by Debbie Veldhuis of Glendale, AZ, in July 2020, after she found it in a thrift shop near her home. We hope to display it permanently in the old post office in the near future.



The second highlight was the display of a Christmas Wreath gifted to the community of Cornville from the only other town named Cornville in the United States, Cornville, Maine.



Judy Miller and Marin Joslin put together a thank you package from us to the citizens of Cornville, Maine. This included a variety of items including a map of Cornville, post cards, local honey, historical brochures, our postal history, and other items.

In Memoriam

Betty Jean Dickinson Kent was born July 17, 1924 in Flagstaff and died on June 3, 2020, at the Arizona Pioneer Home. Betty Jean Dickinson married Walter Kent on March 4, 1943. The couple had 4 children, Sherry Devilier, W. Norman, Charles and Daniel Kent. Betty was a great supporter of the Cornville Historical Society and provided us with a wealth of information about our history. Betty was the great-granddaughter of our homesteader, Samuel Dickinson, granddaughter of early Cornville resident, Alf



Dickinson and daughter of his son, Walter Dickinson and his wife Margaret Opal Smith Dickinson. Betty was a talented writer and story-teller. She was always available to answer emails about Cornville history. She graced us, not once but twice with oral history presentations and was always a congenial and spirited lady.

Clarence "Vic" Dickinson, was born on May 16, 1924 in Big Park. He died August 15, 2021, in Cottonwood. Vic was the son of Clarence and Hazel Bell Dickinson, the grandson of James Victor and Nora Ellen Gaddis Dickison and the great-grandson of Cornville homesteader, William Dickison. Vic's dad homesteaded in Big Park, near Jack's Canyon. Vic was one of seven children and spent almost all of his life in Sedona and Cornville. Vic met with several historical society board members on August 8, 2016 and shared his memories of the Verde Valley. His stories were entertaining and informative. He lived in Cornville until shortly before his death.



We remember and honor these folks with ties to Cornville.

Once Upon a Creek in Cornville (from our files)



Meteor Falls in Cornville

On December 31, 1926, the Coconino Sun contained an article on page 8, entitled, "Cottonwood Man Saw Meteor Fall."

Verbatim, the article said, "Cornville, December 24th, '26. On the date and hour mentioned in last copy of the Sun, while reading a paper my attention was suddenly attracted by a very bright light, almost as bright as daylight which lasted about twice the length of lightning. There was no time to investigate. I supposed it was a meteor. I live on the Verde about the mouth of Oak Creek and some seven miles below Cottonwood. Respectively, L. Tissaw."

The writer was none other than our Cornville homesteader, Louis Tizzo (aka Tissaw), who was born in Austria on June 21, 1863 and died in the Pioneer Home in Prescott on January 19, 1957, at the age of 93. Louis received two homestead patents in Cornville. His first patent was dated January 19, 1911, although the family had lived on the 80-acre parcel of land for many years by then. The second patent was for the adjacent 80 acres and dated April 1, 1916. Both parcels of land were located on the Verde River in Cornville, west of Tissaw Rd. Some descendants still live on part of the original homestead.

As to the meteor he saw... It may have been what we now know is the Geminids. According to NASA, the Geminids, which peak during mid-December each year, are considered one of the best and most reliable annual meteor showers. The Geminids first began appearing in the mid-1800s. They received their name because the meteor shower appears to radiate from a point in the constellation Gemini. The timing of his sighting may indicate Louis was seeing the Geminids.

And finally, as to the title of the article... I believe the news editor took a bit of liberty, when L. Tissaw clearly mentioned he lived seven miles below Cottonwood, making him a Cornville man, not a Cottonwood man.

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Cornville Historical Society 2021 – 2022 Board of Directors

Officers: Sharon Morehouse (President), 634-8927 or stevsharmor@msn.com; Diana Stipek (Vice-President), 639-3632
Cheryl Chamberlain (Secretary), 639-0865 or wormworm@earthlink.net;
Janet Cassagio (Treasurer), 649-1426 or janetcassagio@me.com
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Nita Rinehart 963-1990; Cindy Snyder, 649-9628 or CindySnyder9550@gmail.com

