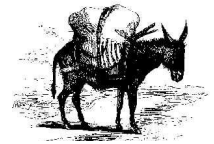
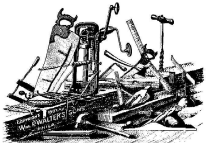

Kentucky Camp Chronicle



Newsletter on the gold mining and ranching heritage of Kentucky Camp, AZ

September 2010

Kentucky Camp Open House and Annual Meeting

Don't forget the Kentucky Camp annual meeting and open house being held in conjunction with the Coronado National Forest. The event takes place at Kentucky Camp on Saturday October 9, 2010. The event is free to the public and we are advertising in a number of area newspapers and internet outlets. Plan on attending and bring some friends.

The Friends of Kentucky Camp will conduct their annual meeting from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Refreshments will be served and the program will consist of a recap of rehabilitation efforts during the past year as well as plans for the coming year. If you have an interest in participating in upcoming projects, this would be an excellent way to get involved.



The open house will begin at 10:00 AM and conclude at 3:00 PM. Activities planned for the Open House include demonstrations of gold panning by the Desert Gold Diggers, and adobe brick-making - hands-on participation by guests is encouraged! For lunch, we are requesting everyone to bring a picnic. We will have BBQ grills available for public use. The Friends of Kentucky Camp will be selling mugs, t-shirts,

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PAGE

Open House and Annual Meeting	1
Thomas Gardner	2
Rare Case of Vandalism at Kentucky Camp	4
Board of Director's Election Results	4
Marie Britton Recognition	5
Site Progress Report	5

postcards and other memorabilia to support preservation programs at the site.

Also back by popular demand, the Desert Bluegrass Association will be providing live music! The Desert Bluegrass Association will be providing an ensemble of guitar, banjo, bass, fiddle and mandolin performers.

There will also be site tours and a special walking tour to nearby Boston Gulch where portions of the historic water system and hydraulic workings are still visible. The event is free.

For more information, contact Kathy Makansi (520-760-2502) at the Coronado National Forest, or Mark Doumas (520-299-4281) of the Friends of Kentucky Camp. Additional information is also available at: <http://www.kentuckycamp.org/>



Thomas Gardner

By: Cherlyn Gardner Strong

"Kentucky Camp is located a little over an hour southeast of Tucson, Arizona, in the oak-studded foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains. From Arizona State Highway 83, take the Gardner Canyon Road and follow the signs to Kentucky Camp." - US Forest Service Website

This "Gardner Canyon Road" on the way to Kentucky Camp has a history behind it that traces back to the late 1850's. That history includes the story of a man named Thomas Gardner, who is my great great grandfather.

Thomas Gardner, according to his daughter Mary Gardner Kane, was born in 1820 in Buffalo, New York. There are no birth records to support this fact. Buffalo was part of the "burned over" district of New York birth records. There is no proof of his birth. We take this fact as faith, even though there may be some evidence to support that Thomas Gardner came to America from Scotland as a baby, landing at Ellis Island with his parents. Either way, Thomas Gardner was of Scotch descent and hailed from New York before making his way west.

It is said that Gardner worked on the Harrison-Tyler election in Wisconsin around 1840. From there, it is said that he followed his dreams to California. A Forty-Niner who didn't strike it rich, he followed the next dream. He came to Southern Arizona in 1859, after a brief mining stint in Mexico.

The Arizona Historical Society is rich with documents about my great great grandfather. We know for a fact that Thomas Gardner was one of the earliest (if not the earliest) white settlers in what would become Santa Cruz County, making him an Arizona Pioneer.

He first settled around the Lochiel/ Washington Camp/ Duquesne area. He fell in love with the grasslands of the San Rafael Valley and the lush, rugged landscape of the Patagonia Mountains. The area allowed him to conduct business on both sides of the Mexican border.

He met a woman named Gertrude Apodaca, a Mexican citizen of Mayo Indian descent. However, he settled into an area where the Apache also called home. After a while, attacks by the Apache forced him to move near Fort Crittenden, near Sonoita, under the protection of the military.

The military protection helped matters somewhat. Up to eight soldiers at a time would be stationed at the Gardner Ranch for two-week-at-a-time rotating periods. According to his daughter Mary, she recalls her mother making bullets while her father shot his rifle from holes incorporated into the corners of the home; a necessary home-design feature at the time. Not one family was untouched by the frequent attacks during the time. More than 100 people were killed along the 15 mile stretch of the Sonoita Creek during that time period.



Despite the dangers, the settlers had to make a living. Gardner made his living in several different ways. He was a rancher and provided meat to the miners at Mowry. He held stake in mines in the area, including the San Antonio Mine, the Trench Mine and the Alta Mine. He even farmed the area, growing potatoes. At one time, he operated a saw mill and provided much needed work to the Mormons so they could complete their journey to what would become Saint David. All these things he did while keeping a shotgun close-by for defense.

After the Gadsden Purchase, although southern Arizona was part of the United States, the Apache attacked residents who settled in the area. This is the way life was on the Arizona frontier, for all families who chose to make a life in the area. This included Thomas Hughes and E.C. Pennington. Other families who lived in the area included families with surnames of: Rickman, Ake, Findlay, Marshall, Wordsworth, Graydon and others.



Thomas Gardner made that journey to Arizona, but he would continue to risk his life to provide for his family. Frequent, dangerous journeys were made to Tucson to sell supplies. On one of these trips, he was shot through the lungs by Apache Chief Cochise. His riding companion managed to escape to get help back at the ranch. My great great grandfather survived by stuffing a handkerchief into his wound, crawling into a thicket, and playing dead until help could arrive.

Yet, life under attack proved very hard for the Gardner family. In 1872, Gardner moved his family to what would later be known as the Apache Springs Ranch, on what is now Gardner Canyon Road. While at the ranch, he would grow apples and continue with his various means of survival, though still dangerous.

Although Gardner is said to have been illiterate, he felt that education was important for his children. He would spend the school year renting a home in the downtown area of Tucson, while his children went to school. He spent this period reserving Apache Springs Ranch as a summer home.

While in Tucson, his passions included horse racing. His favorite horse was named Grey Eagle. The Tucson Daily Citizen published many challenges posted by Gardner, challenging anyone to race against his Grey Eagle for very high stakes. One time, however, prior to one of these races, his horse was startled, dragging him some distance, and injuring him very badly. Once again, he recovered.

In 1896, due to his age, he sold the Apache Springs Ranch to Walter Vail at Empire Ranch, and retired to Patagonia. He died there on March 26, 1906. The townspeople recognized his contributions to the area and erected a monument in his honor in the Patagonia Cemetery.

So, why would he live all those years in a dangerous area? According to historical records, he once said to a member of the Pennington family: "Well, you see, there was lively minin' then, lively hoss racin' and lively fightin' — everything was lively."

Perhaps that is why I have chosen to live for a stint in the Patagonia Mountains, near where my ancestor first settled. Along the border and south of the "warning signs" that warn of illegal drug and human smuggling, life is certainly very lively here, as it was for him. Though I am thankful that it is nowhere as dangerous, relatively speaking, as it was for him. The entire area is what it is today, in a large part, due to him.

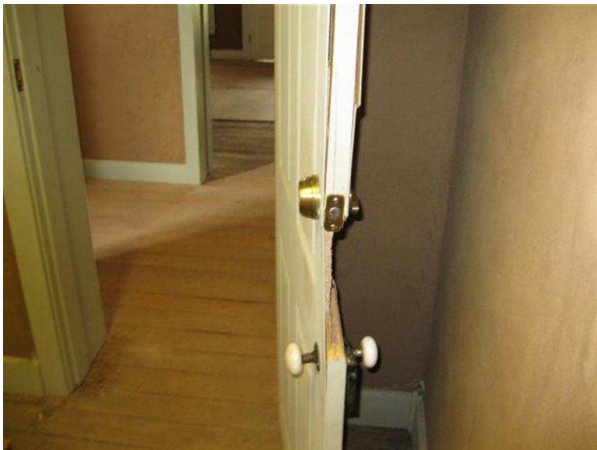
Reminder: If you would like to join the Friends of Kentucky Camp email discussion group, send an email to:

FriendsofKentuckyCamp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

If you have changed your email address recently and wondered why you no longer receive discussion group email, you need to resend an email to the above address from your new email account.

Rare Case of Vandalism at Kentucky Camp

In late July, Chris Schrage reported that Kentucky Camp sustained a rare case of vandalism. (No caretaker was on site in July.... A difficult month to care-take due to the heat.) Forest Service employee, Don Marion had visited the site on July 24th and all was fine at that time. Our caretaker from May, Barry, returned to the site for a visit with friends on or about July 27th and was the first to report the vandalism. He noted that vandal(s) kicked in the door to the Friends of Kentucky Camp office, took the keys that are kept there, and used the keys to open the caretaker trailer and the green tool shed. They also broke into the rental cabin through the back door. It didn't appear that the tool storage room in the Headquarters Building or the pump house was broken into.



Damaged door to the Friends of Kentucky Camp office – Photo by John Weiss

After learning of the vandalism, Don Marion returned to Kentucky Camp on July 28th to further assess the damage. He reported that the caretaker's trailer was indeed open, but nothing appeared disturbed or missing; ditto for the green tool shed. The rental cabin sustained some damage to the frame on the back door, which Don was able to repair. These buildings were all re-secured. The door to the Friends of Kentucky Camp office was pretty badly damaged. A temporary repair was made to the door on the following weekend that allows the door to shut and latch, but the door will eventually need to be replaced.

Other than the office door, Don reported that there was no evidence of theft or vandalism in any of the other opened buildings. The keys taken from the Friends of Kentucky Camp office were found strewn around the site and have been recovered. The Forest Service Law Enforcement folks are aware of the situation, and are following up with an investigation.

Overall, damage to the site was light but this incident underscores the importance of having a full-time caretaker!

Board of Director's Election Results

The Friends of Kentucky Camp are happy to announce the results of the recent Board of Directors election. With the re-election of Mark Doumas, John Weiss and Pete Van Cleve, our officers will remain the same for the next year. This is great for continuity in our programs, but we also are always looking for new people and ideas to enrich our organization and the rehabilitation activities at Kentucky Camp.

Friends of Kentucky Camp Officers:

President: Mark Doumas – term expires 6/2012

Vice President: John Weiss – term expires 6/2012

Secretary: Pat Spoerl – term expires 6/2011

Treasurer: Nancy Hough – term expires 6/2011

Director at-large: Pete Van Cleve – term expires 6/2012



Marie Britton Recognition

Long-time Friends of Kentucky Camp member, Marie Britton, has been honored by the State of Arizona, Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission. The announcement was made at the 8th Annual Arizona Statewide Historic Preservation Partnership Conference held in Flagstaff, May 13-14, 2010. The theme of this year's conference was "Preservation at a Higher Elevation".



In addition to her contributions at Kentucky Camp, Marie has been an enthusiastic and valuable archaeology advocate in Arizona for over 20 years, having served as President of both the Arizona Archaeological Society (AAS) and the Southwest Archaeology Team (SWAT); she continues to assist both of these organizations in a variety of ways.

For the past 14 years, Marie has also worked as an intern to the State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) Public Archaeology Program, faithfully assisting this Program by using her networking skills and her many ties across the state to help spread SHPO's stewardship message. At past Archaeology Expos, Marie has also been instrumental in helping to coordinate Kids' Education Days, as she loves to work with children

and share her love and enthusiasm for our state's heritage with the young. Her sensitivity and respect for both archaeological and historical resources has led to a strong commitment for historic preservation in Marie, something that she shares with others whenever she gets a chance!

Site Progress Report

The past two months of work sessions at Kentucky Camp have focused on repairs due to the July vandalism reported earlier in this newsletter and weed control.

The traditional late summer monsoon has blessed the Kentucky Camp area with lots of rain. This makes for a very green landscape but the weeds have been growing like crazy.

On September 11th, a small crew spent the better part of the day trimming weeds in preparation for next month's open house. We had weed trimmers and lawn mower all running simultaneously. We put a pretty good dent in the weeds.

Thanks to the Forest Service, Kentucky Camp has a new weed trimmer. The old Echo unit is still there and in working condition but it's getting less reliable with age and the new Stihl unit is a welcome replacement. We used the new weed trimmer this past Saturday and it works great!



A thunderstorm approaches Kentucky Camp. July 31, 2010. – photo by John Weiss

Friends of Kentucky Camp

12250 N. Copper Spring Trail
Oro Valley, AZ 85755

Web Site:

<http://www.kentuckycamp.org/>

Discussion Group:

FriendsOfKentuckyCamp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Newsletter Submissions:

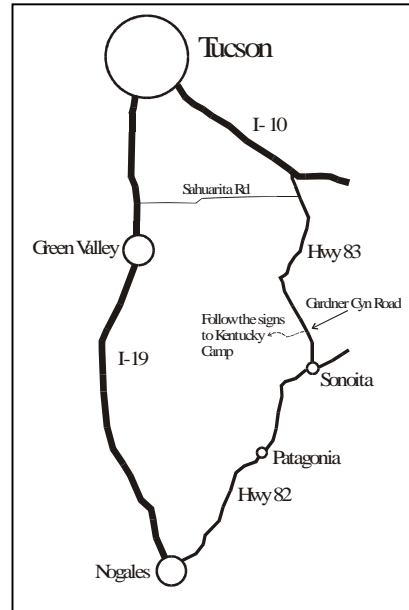
doumas@mindspring.com

Board of Directors:

Mark Doumas	President	520 299-4281
John Weiss	Vice President	520 323-0358
Pat Spoerl	Secretary	520 297-7347
Nancy Hough	Treasurer	520 578-9053
Pete Van Cleve	At-large	520 378-1956

Forest Service Liaison:

Kathy Makansi 520 760-2502



Memberships:

Student (\$5) Individual (\$10) Family (\$15)
Contributing (\$25) Supporting (\$50) Lifetime (\$200)

Friends of Kentucky Camp is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization: all dues are tax deductible.

Friends of Kentucky Camp
12250 N. Copper Spring Trail
Oro Valley, AZ 85755