



The Mohave Museum  
of History and Arts

# Mohave Memories

March - April 2022

One of the benefits of being Director of this fine Museum, lies in the opportunity to roam these sacred halls and meet some of the guests that grace the Museum with their presence. The other day I engaged one patron in a lively conversation about the obvious as well as hidden attributes of this Museum and after a few minutes, he likened my Directorship to that of a rudder of a sea going vessel. I walked away with the feeling that I was steering a great ship to a certain glorious destination. I came into my office smiling until I analyzed the analogy. I mean the Museum is surely among the most magnificent in the fleet of Arizona Museums, but it is anchored in this great community and that would mean that the rudder is a big stick lying dormant under water. The conclusion that I came to was I really don't do well in the metaphorical world.

The Museum is indeed a great ship that houses artifacts and memories of Mohave County. This institution seems to absorb and display a wide range of artifacts and information to the community it is anchored in. I started as Museum Director in January 2002 and from day one, I felt a profound connection to this place. I don't want to give the impression that everything went smoothly from the gate, there were times that I felt that I hadn't accomplished all the goals I had set out to do; however, the Museum always flourished like a well-maintained garden and for that I am eternally grateful. I would also like to say that I am grateful to you for your support in these extra ordinary times. You are the best!

Meanwhile, back on the subject of ships, I would like to pay particular attention to one of our nautical exhibits. The Museum's auditorium has an exhibit of a ship, a schooner type vessel that was carved by a Mohave County inmate with a pocket knife in the 1890's. Put aside the fact that an inmate was armed and take time to enjoy the detail with which this piece of art was constructed. It is amazing how many Museum guests stop and spend time looking at this artifact. I invite you to come down and see for yourself the beautiful craftsmanship involved in this work.

*Shannon*



**THIS SHIP WAS HAND CARVED WITH A  
POCKET KNIFE BY A PRISONER IN THE  
MOHAVE COUNTY JAIL IN THE 1890'S. IT  
WAS GIVEN TO SAM CROZIER, THEN  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS.**

donated by: Mr. & Mrs. Tingstrom, Parma, II

Editor's note: The Mohave Museum, founded by the Daughters of Mohave County Pioneers, has more to offer than beautiful artifacts and interesting exhibits. The Museum also offers one of Arizona's premier research libraries covering the history of Kingman, Mohave County, and Southwest Native Americans. The research facility houses a collection of over 300 oral interviews collected from members of the families who helped to establish Kingman and make it into the city it is today. We will be featuring excerpts from these interviews in this and future newsletters. We hope you enjoy learning the history of Kingman and Mohave County from the very people who lived it and have shared it with all of us.

Glenna Johnson/ Auld/ Alger

Interview date:10/16/80

I was born in Camp Verde, Arizona, on the parade grounds, actually, in a house that was part of old Ft. Verde, and had been made into a nursing home, April 8, 1930. We lived at that time in the building that is now the museum. The long, low adobe building on the south end of the parade grounds. It was made into apartments then. We lived in one of those apartments. My father was Seth Ellis Johnson. He was born in Graham County, at Ft. Thomas, January 8, 1900. He is an old Arizonian also. He is still alive and lives in Chloride. He might give you an interview. There is no way he would come into town for it.

My mother was Kathleen Collins. She was born in Northumberland, County, England. It is now Cumberland County as those two counties have been combined under that name. Her father had come to Arizona about 1908, and he went to work at the mines down at Bisbee. He was Harry Collins. She has post cards he sent her from Oatman where he was a miner, and also sang at all the bars. He was a great big red-headed guy and used to sing in the bars. In England he had been a coal miner and came to the copper mines in Bisbee, and graduated to gold at Oatman.

My grandmother and my mother moved to Montreal. The grand-parents were married then, but he didn't work at it too much. He would travel around. All his life he went to different mines, in different parts of the world, later he became a mining engineer and he traveled all over the world opening up mines and developing them. He was a really neat guy. He would come home loaded with presents and stuff from China and Africa. I still have lots of the things he brought from South America and other places. He was delightful.

Mother and Grandma lived in Montreal for a couple of years, then went to Bisbee to join my grandfather, and ever after, the family, except for my grandfather, lived in Arizona.

My parents were married in about 1920. Through the years my grandparents had moved around Arizona. They lived at Ray, and Miami and Globe, and Grandpa worked in the mines. He was not a graduate engineer, despite his great success. I don't know what he did in the mines in Arizona. His mother was born in Utah and her name was Maty Anne Anderson. They were a good Mormon family and my Dad's father was Seth Ellis Johnson. His father was Sextus Johnson, who wrote a lot of the hymns in the Mormon hymn book. Sextus Johnson was a Mormon bishop in Johnson City, Utah. They all moved into Arizona and I believe that Seth Ellis Johnson, my grandfather was also born in Graham County, Arizona. But I am not sure. Daddy was born in Graham County and six months later the whole family moved to Mexico. That would have been in the summer of 1900. They moved to Colonia Morales. They took cows and horses along...

...In 1933 we landed in Yucca, on the train. My dad had preceeded us and he had a job and a house all ready. It was a tent house. He was mining at the Boriania Mine, eighteen miles from Yucca. It was in the middle of the night and we got off the train, Mother and the three of us, and Louie Janc was running the grocery store, and somebody got him up and he drove us the 18 miles up that dirt road to the mine. We were there, just walking in, and Daddy didn't expect us for a week. If I remember rightly, it was in winter.

Many, many people have worked at the Borigana over the years. Mittie Herridge lived very near the Borigana. It was just super great up there. Everybody there was so happy. The wife of the Campbell who died in that train explosion, grew up there. Rillis Campbell it was. Her mother was a Steed. We eventually got out of that tent house. By the time I started school we had moved into a house. I have delightful pictures of it. By then my Dad was a foreman and was working his own crew on the 300' level at the Borigana, and I started school in the one-room school house, before they built the larger one. We used to walk about two miles down the hill in the snow. In the warmer weather, my Mother used to let my brother, who was seven years older than me, take the gun to school to kill rattlesnakes, so they wouldn't bite us. He was about twelve at the time. The school was right by Herridge's house and Mrs. Herridge was on the school board. She is the nicest person. She plays the fiddle.

By the way, my first teacher was Bernice Hulet, who was Anson Smith's child. They built a school with two rooms, and Mrs. Hulet was one teacher and Stella McMillan was the other. She was from an old pioneer family, too. Her granddaughter is Donna Head who lives here in Kingman. That school unfortunately caught on fire. Somebody was smoking under the porch. I can remember the kids running with buckets of water, but of course it didn't do any good. Following that fire, they built another school, kind of up on another level, closer to the mine and it was the school at the mine until the mine closed.

In 1939 there was a fire at the mill at the mine and everybody moved away, because they couldn't run the mill or the mine, so they in essence closed the school, though they still had a school running. From about November on of that school year, there were two of us kids, there was an eighth grader and I was in the fourth. From about March on, there was just me, and we went to the teacher's house for school. Her name was Edith Camp. She had a husband that was one of the mechanics. Though they didn't care to have married teachers then, in the outlying areas, they took what they could get...

There's so much more to Glenna's story than space allows for here. If would like to know the rest of the story come by the Museum Library any Wednesday or Thursday from 9am until 3pm. We'd be happy to see you!



Women's Club member  
Glenna Johnson Auld/Alger second  
from the left.

Also pictured left to right,  
Clandine Cox, (Glenna) Edith Mullen,  
Mildred Clark, Toni Lee



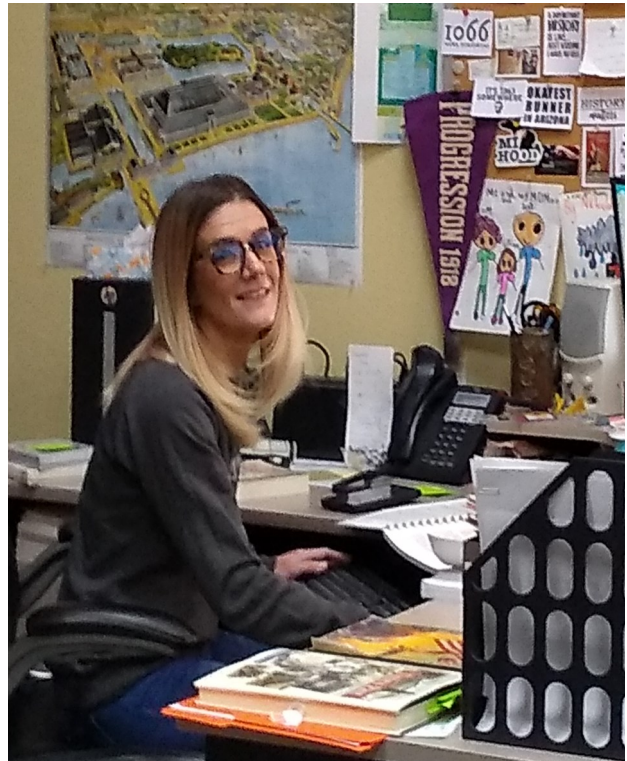
# MOHAVE MUSEUM NEWS

The Mohave Museum of History and Arts is happy to introduce to you our newly hired Curator, Leah Stagg. We are truly looking forward to working with and getting to know this highly qualified, energetic and enthusiastic new member of our Museum family.

Leah Stagg was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan.

Though a true "Mid-westerner", she has Western pioneer heritage on both sides that reaches back to the Mormon Trail. Leah's love of history began in elementary school when she began visiting French and Indian War and Civil War sites. Her first visit to the Gettysburg Battlefield when she was 11 had her hooked, and she delved head-first into studying the past. Her fascination with the West began with her choice to transfer to Southern Utah University for her undergraduate degree which she completed in 2008.

Leah, husband Scott, and the first two children, of what would eventually be four children, arrived in Arizona in fall 2014. After a few years in Arizona, Leah decided to turn her ongoing obsession with history into a Master's Degree.



In July 2021 she graduated with an MA in History from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Her focus was the importance of local history and the often complicated, though crucial role, of public memory in promoting history.

Her thesis entitled, "This is Now Our War: The World War I Experience of Beaver County, Utah" instilled in her a love for the rich history of small Western communities, and reinforced the key role they play in the larger narrative of US History. Leah is excited to be able to bring her enthusiasm for history to the Mohave Museum as she and her family put down roots in Kingman.



By the way...

Did you know that Arizona is sometimes referred to as the Sweetheart State or the Valentine State?? Arizona has been given these sweet nicknames because we were admitted to the Union on February 14th 1912. This year, 2022, is the 110th anniversary of Arizona's statehood and while we may have missed the 14th, there will be celebrations going on all year long!

Listed below are a number of links that you can visit in order to find items of historical interest, some Arizona trivia and maybe even a celebration to attend to mark this important date.

If you are receiving the electronic version of this newsletter you are good to go! If you have not tried the electronic version you may want to give it a go! In the meantime, you can access these same links from our website at: [www.mohavemuseum.org](http://www.mohavemuseum.org)

Choose the Resources tab and then Newsletter.

Arizona celebrates 110th anniversary of statehood.

<https://www.kgun9.com/news/local-news/arizona-celebrates-110th-anniversary-of-statehood>

From the Library of congress Arizona Statehood Day

<https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2022/02/arizona-statehood-anniversary/>

5 things to know about Arizona as it celebrates 110 years of statehood

<https://ktar.com/story/1948988/5-things-to-know-about-arizona-as-it-celebrates-110-years-of-statehood/>

Arizona's Unique Journey to Statehood

<https://www.12news.com/article/news/local/arizona/arizona-unique-journey-to-statehood-on-its-110th-birthday/75-odb19b77-c6e0-45cb-8f9f-3be6e0d5db5c>



## Membership Renewals

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