

THE COCHISE COUNTY HISTORICAL JOURNAL

A COCHISE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATION

VOLUME 36 No.2 FALL/WINTER 2006



SETTLING IN
EAST COCHISE STONGHOLD CANYON

THE COCHISE COUNTY

Historical Journal

1001 D Ave.

P. O. Box 818

Douglas AZ 85608

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



12-06
Art Atonna
15652 S.26th Way
Phoenix AZ 85044

UNDELIVERABLE
AS ADDRESSED

The Cochise County Historical Journal, formerly The Cochise Quarterly, has been published since the Spring of 1971. Members and contributors are entitled to a copy of each of the Historical Journals issued in the year their contributions are made.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 15
DOUGLAS AZ

Cochise County
Historical Society

Founded in 1966

1001 D Ave.
P.O. Box 818
Douglas, AZ
85608
520-364-5226

e-mail: cchsaz@earthlink.net

**To Preserve
the Past
for
The Future**

ISSN 019-80626

THE COCHISE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WAS INCORPORATED
UNDER THE LAWS OF
THE STATE OF ARIZONA
SEPTEMBER 13, 1968. TAX
EXEMPT STATUS UNDER
SECTION 501 (C)3 OF THE
INTERNAL REVENUE
CODE WAS GRANTED
DECEMBER 17, 1971.

COVER PHOTO
see text this page

Contents

Editorial Letter	1
Timeline	2
Introduction	5
Cochise's Stronghold	7
Rockfellow et al	10
Soldiers Occupy the Canyon	15
Homesteading in the Canyon	24
Red Warren's Home	28
The Buckley Homestead	40
A Few Acres (The Walns)	48
An Old Adobe	51
Those Passing Through	54
The Rockfellows Remain	58
The Shillings Build	62
Rangers in the Canyon	66

Cover photo

Lucinda Harris and John Henry 'Red' Warren pose for a formal portrait in this undated photo from the Warren family's files. The Warren family was the first to formally homestead in the Cochise Stronghold Canyon. Their entry is dated February 1899.

Editorial Letter

Dear Reader,

CCHS is pleased to have a history of Cochise Stronghold for you. Jonetta Holt has spent about 10 years researching and compiling this story. We trust you will enjoy it.

The Annual meeting and dinner for 2006 was held at the beautiful Gadsden Hotel in Douglas on November 5. About 70 members and guests attended and enjoyed.

Officers elected for 2007 are: President, Mary Burnett; Vice-President, Dan Pollak; Recording Secretary, Ethel Jackson Price; Corresponding Secretary, Mary Magoffin; Treasurer, Liz Ames.

The Board of Directors for the coming year are: John and Norma Lavanchy; Dan and Nancy Pollak; Mary Burnett; Chris Overlock; David Santor; Ron and Ethel Price; Liz Ames, John and Mary Magoffin and LaDorna Chenoweth, honorary.

Raymond Harris, a research Geologist at the Arizona Geological Survey gave a fascinating talk and slide show on earth fissures and giant dessication cracks. Mr. Harris and some colleagues are trying to map in detail all of the known fissures and cracks in the state, a huge undertaking.

The year 2006 wasn't exactly a banner year for CCHS, but we are looking forward to 2007 being better. We wish all of you the best year yet in 2007!!

The Editorial Board

Some Early Events:

1871-72: Thomas Steele and John Mckenzie build a stage and forage station at Point of Mountain. They are credited with being the first residents in the Sulphur Spring Valley.

1872: Henry Clay Hooker obtains water rights in the extreme NW corner of Sulphur Spring Valley. He establishes a ranch called the Sierra Bonita.

April 17, 1876: Nicholas Rogers and O.O. Spence are killed by Apaches at a trading post Rogers established in the Sulphur Spring Valley.

Oct. 30, 1876: President Grant signs an executive order restoring the Chiricahua Reservation to public domain.

1876: Cattlemen start filling up the valley.

1881: Cochise County is carved from a portion of Pima County.

1883: Rockfellow, Servoss, Spencer and Phy camp at the mouth of East Cochise Stronghold Canyon and decide to claim it by pre-emption, aka "Squatters Rights."

After a close call with Apaches in the Dragoons, Rockfellow, Servoss and Spencer decide to homestead in the valley and hold the canyon land for safer times.

1885: The Chiricahua Cattle Company is formed through the efforts of eight independent cattlemen.

May: Mike Noonan, a rancher who lived at Noonan Canyon in the foothills of the Dragoons east side, is killed by Apaches who broke from the White Mountain Reservation.

1885-86: Cochise's Stronghold, considered an Apache fortress, is

temporarily occupied by U.S. Army troops during Gen. George Crook's "Geronimo Campaign."

May 3, 1887: A 7.6 earthquake shakes Sulphur Spring Valley.

1891-92: Regionwide drought.

1895: Jimmy Pearce finds silver and stakes a claim that marks the beginning of the Commonwealth Mine. Many of the miners in Tombstone migrate to the new activity.

1899: John Henry 'Red' Warren homesteads in the East Cochise Stronghold Canyon.

March 21, 1901: Legislation to form the Arizona Rangers is passed.

1903: E.B. Perrin receives title to the property that currently is known as Half Moon Ranch. He sells it to the Chiricahua Cattle Company.

June 11, 1906: The USDA's Agricultural Claims act passes allowing homesteaders to claim 160 acres of Forest Reservation land and prove up on it

May 25, 1907: Dragoon National Forest is created by Proclamation. That same month, the Buckleys homestead in the canyon.

July 2, 1908: Dragoon National Forest is combined with Santa Catalina and Santa Rita National Forests to create Coronado National Forest.

Feb. 19, 1909: Congress approves filing of 640 acre homesteads in Arizona calling it the Desert Land Act.

Homesteaders flood the valley, fencing in their properties and cutting into resources that had traditionally been left to cattle-

men ranging their stock over thousands of acres of land.

1909: Legislation disbanding the Arizona Rangers is passed.

Feb. 12, 1912: Arizona is granted Statehood.

The Dragoons are transferred from Coronado National Forest to Chiricahua National Forest by Proclamation.

June 6, 1917: Dragoons again became part of Coronado National Forest when the Chiricahua and Coronado forests are combined.



Introduction

As a resident of the canyon, the most wonderful experiences I had involved meeting the people who lived there and those who returned to the canyon because of a family connection.

I had frequent contact with Helen Prude who remained in residence at the Half Moon Ranch until 2004 and had many opportunities to hear John and Mary Magoffin as they shared their memories of the canyon and the valley. Jim Shilling was generous with his time and his memories as was Elva Lane who is a Cochise resident and has ties to both the Kegans and Shilling families.

As a result of a chance meeting in Tucson, John Rockfellow's great granddaughter, Lisa Bunker, and her husband, Carey, visited the canyon one day. Harry Wheeler's granddaughter, Pam Hamlett, and her family dropped in one day to revisit her mother's favorite spot, the Wheeler orchard.

Remarkably, the granddaughter and great granddaughter of John Henry 'Red' Warren appeared at the back door of the admin site one rainy day and we spent several hours sharing our files and information that we'd pieced together of the family's history in the canyon. Several more Red Warren descendants also made their way back to the homestead and we had marvelous opportunities to visit and share.

One of the most amazing developments occurred immediately after Joan Hammer's article about the historic NY Ranch appeared in the *Ghost Town Trails* newspaper published by Patti Burris. The man who owned the land where the NY Ranch homestead was located called to ask if we wanted to see it. It's still standing!

In April 2006, the Sulphur Springs Valley Historical Society hosted a tour of the 1883 adobe NY Ranch house where friends who wanted to investigate its preservation gathered for a look at the house. Most of the protective tin is gone from the roof, but the walls still appear somewhat sturdy. Conservation is an option, but the effort will have to be put into effect very soon. This 123-year-old historic adobe ranch home is fading quickly. If you would like to

participate in the preservation of the home, please contact Kathy Klumpp, President of the Sulphur Spring Valley Historical Society at (520) 384-3397. And if you'd like to know more about John Rockfellow and his family, his great granddaughter Lisa Bunker has posted a marvelous website featuring biographies and an extensive photo gallery. Go to <http://lwbaz.home.mindspring.com/family/rockfellow/index.htm>

This collection of stories about settlers in East Cochise Stronghold Canyon could not have occurred without the generous support of all those people listed above and others too numerous to mention. The result is truly a collaborative effort which I am glad to have had the opportunity to participate in.

*Jonetta Holt,
a former canyon resident*



The Esperanza two-room adobe ranch house as it appeared in April 2006 during a field trip hosted by the Sulphur Springs Valley Historical Society. Photo by J. T. Holt

Cochise's Stronghold

This narrow, high-walled defile on the eastern side of the Dragoon mountains is a landmark well known as East Cochise Stronghold Canyon. Although the name may provoke thoughts that former inhabitants constructed a fortress there, no Apache-built fort stands today if there ever was one. Most of the time, the Chiricahua band of Apaches who frequently camped in the canyon built only what they needed to make their wickiup areas more comfortable. Few signs of their residence are visible.

The high granite walls of the Dragons and its acres of boulders nonetheless served Cochise's band well as a place where families could rest easy and turn their attention to the priorities of living: harvesting and roasting mescal and other foods, participating in social rituals, customs and ceremonies, and generally carrying on day-to-day business.

Non-indigenous people, including anglos, moving through or into the area quickly came to know that the canyon was one of Cochise's favorite camping places. And it became widely known as "Cochise's Stronghold" during the 12 years following the 1861 conflict between Cochise and the U.S. Army at Apache Pass. That incident set Cochise on the war path. When his followers were pursued, their path frequently led back to the Dragons where Cochise placed armed sentinels on high rocks. Their defensive maneuvers were so highly effective they were almost sure to discourage any further advance by troops.

When Cochise and his followers negotiated the terms and boundaries of the Chiricahua Reservation in 1872 with Gen. O.O. Howard, they insisted that the Dragons remain within its confines. A map of the reservation on a subsequent page shows that the short-lived reservation included the land from the west side of the Dragons to the state line with New Mexico and from a point near Safford to the border with Mexico: An area roughly two-thirds the size of Cochise County.

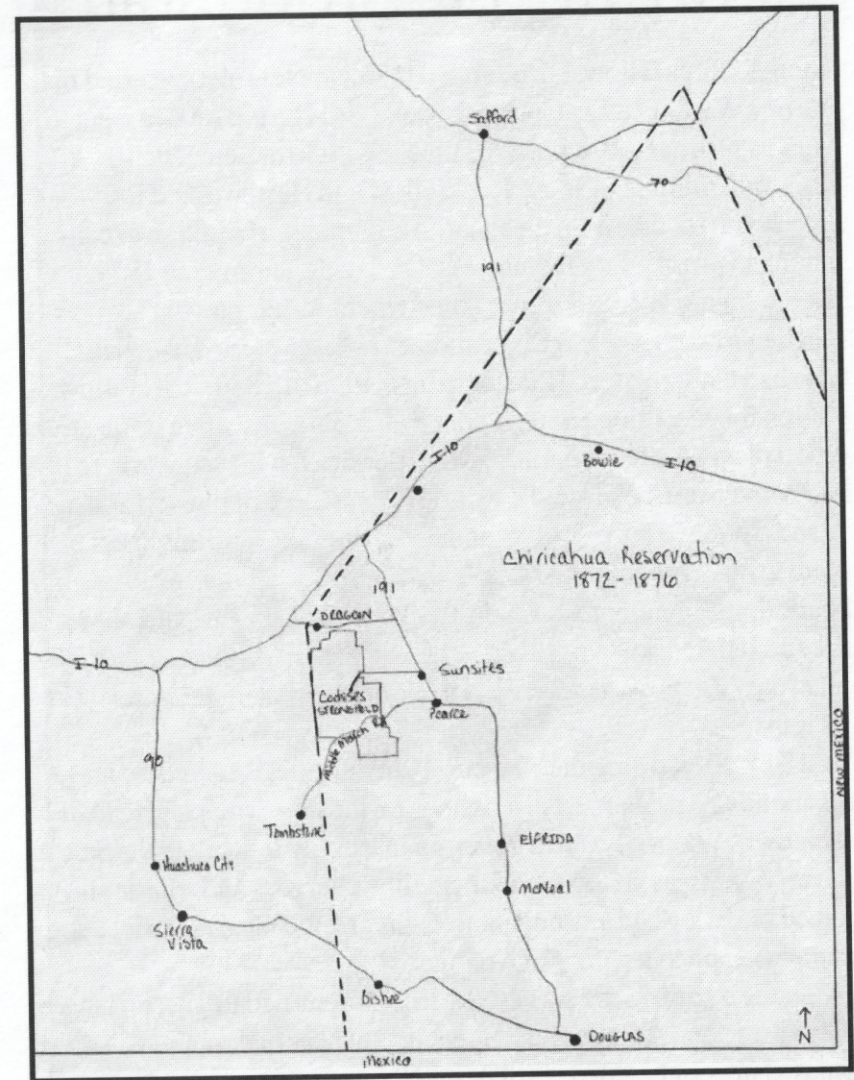
The heart of the reservation seemed to remain the Dragons,

despite the fact that the reservation's agency headquarters was actually never located there. Cochise was in camp with his followers in the Dragoons when he fell ill and died June 8, 1874. He was interred in a secret location in the Dragoons and the only white man to attend the interment, the chief's friend Tom Jeffords, never revealed the location. At least two significantly different stories are told about the chief's burial, with clues that would lead searchers to different types of terrain.

It is interesting to note that the Chiricahua Apaches and their descendants have never called the canyon Cochise's Stronghold. Tribal Historian Michael Darrow who lives in Fort Sill, Oklahoma explained during a trip to the canyon in May 2002 that the Apache word for the Dragoons' canyon means "second home" or "summer home."

Note: For further information on Cochise, see the book by Edwin Sweeney, *Cochise: Chiricahua Apache Chief*, first published in 1991.

The Chiricahua Reservation



Tentative version of the Chiricahua Reservation, 1872-1876, drawn by Tribal Historian Lelan Michael Darrow, Fort Sill Apache Tribe Chiricahua/Warm Springs Apache on May 7, 2002. Map is from author's files.

John A. Rockfellow et al, start at the Stonghold

John A. Rockfellow, born Jan. 30, 1858 in New York, started his journey West in 1877 along with friend Bill Hartt. The two went to work as prospectors in the area meeting up with Pete Kitchen, a veteran of mining, in 1879. Rockfellow and Hartt worked for Kitchen on his claims in the Pajarito mountains in addition to continuing to prospect for themselves. During the summer of 1879, Hartt's friend, Walter Servoss, joined them. While staying at Kitchen's ranch, the three met another N.Y. native, Frank Allaire, who had claims at Oro Blanco. In the spring of 1880, Rockfellow was on the west slope of the Santa Rita mountains when he discovered a piece of silver-bearing float. After finding the ledge where it had come from, he located the mine in the names of himself and his friends, dubbed it the Frijole, and joked that the mine might keep them in beans awhile. The mine amounted to more than a hill of beans for the gentlemen friends. Rockfellow said years later that they sold the Frijole too early to share in the big profits but that what they did get was enough to give them a start in the cattle industry.

In 1883, after selling their interest in the Frijole, Rockfellow and his friends began earnest discussions on locating a ranch spread of their own. When news of a government survey to work in the Salt River Valley was announced, Rockfellow, Servoss and Allaire all joined on. They had a strong motive: finding the ideal ranch location in the wide open territory of Arizona.

After their stint on the survey, the friends returned to Tucson where they met friend Andrew Jack Spencer. Spencer had money to invest but was in poor health. He suggested they combine their talents and establish an operation in the Sulphur Spring Valley located in the now two-year-old county of Cochise. In his autobiography, *Log of an Arizona Trail Blazer*, Rockfellow writes that he and his friends were surprised at Spencer's recommendation. After all, Cochise



This undated photo of John A. Rockfellow is estimated to have been taken in the 1880s. Photo courtesy Lisa Bunker.

County was well known for being a hangout for outlaws and a hiding place for Apaches.

But the idea gained appeal so rapidly that Rockfellow and Servoss, Spencer and his friend Joe Phy set out almost immediately.

On Aug. 8, 1883, the little party camped at the mouth of the East Cochise Stronghold. Rockfellow describes the area in his *Log*: "The season's rains had been good, and the whole region was covered with waving green grass knee-high, and in some places even hip-deep." The creek was flowing almost deep enough to float a canoe, Rockfellow noted. "We were charmed and said, 'No use looking further.' We attached notices to trees claiming the lower end of the canyon under the law of Squatter's Rights."

Rockfellow and his friends soon began building corrals for the horses that would arrive. But their preparations were interrupted in October of that year. Rockfellow, while on a trip to get supplies in Dragoon, learned that a group of Apaches had killed men at the south end of the Dragoons and were last seen headed in the general direction of his camp. He hurried back to camp and at dusk the men rode out of the Stronghold driving the horses into the valley.

Rockfellow says in his *Log*, that the men cold camped that night and the next morning after a short search found an attractive water hole near the surface. They decided to build ranch quarters there in the valley and hold the Stronghold ranch for safer times.

The valley quarters, the men named Esperanza Ranch (see introduction for more on the Esperanza Ranch, later the NY Ranch) and they built a two-room adobe house on the property. Phillip Rockfellow, John's youngest child, said the ranch's range "included the 'Dry Lake' salt grass area and the fine grama grass country between the NY and Cochise Stronghold which was held mainly by Squatter's Rights. The combination of various grasses and browse, plus winter protection in the mountain foothills, made up a fine all-year-range."

One of the ranch partners would not live to see it prosper. A. Jack Spencer died in December 1883 in Tucson. His interest in the ranch was given to his friend Joe Phy who sold it to Pete Kitchen. In the spring of 1884, the men bought cattle and the main business of the

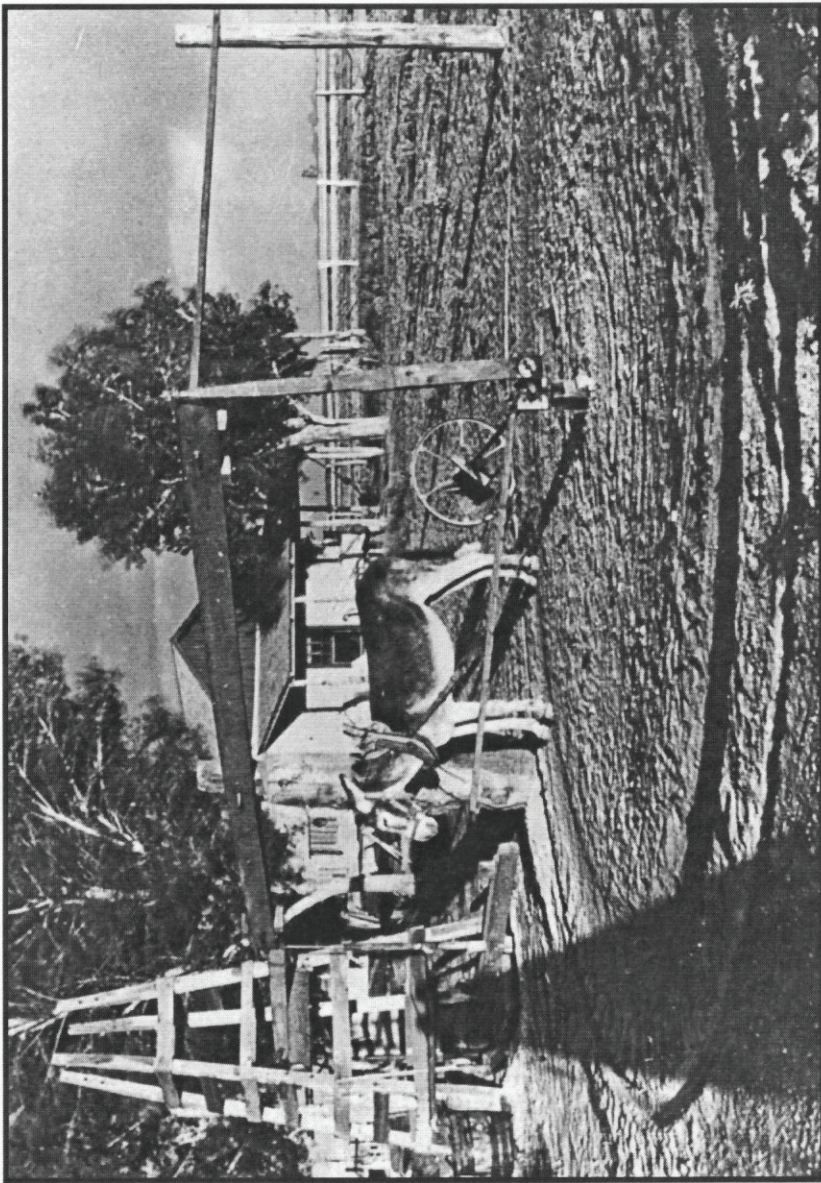


Walter Servoss, a partner in the Esperanza Ranch, in 1886.
Photo courtesy Lisa Bunker.

ranch got under way. Soon after, Frank Allaire joined them, bringing his cousin, Tom Allaire and Tom's 6-year-old boy, Gifford, with him.

Safer times eluded settlers throughout Cochise County for several years although the Stronghold was visited occasionally and talked about. Rockfellow wrote: "So the beautiful place went back to nature; the grass grew plentifully where the ponies had grazed; the rude habitations of the Indians, composed of poles originally covered with skins or canvas, sank or were blown over; the freedom from underbrush, due to the frequent camp cleanup fires in Indian days, and wide open spaces between the great oak and juniper trees gave the place a park-like appearance."

Rockfellow notes that in June 1885, Geronimo and several other warriors were again making a living off of the countryside and the result, in his words, was "Hades broke loose."



One-burro power water pump at the NY Ranch, photo dated 1895. Photo courtesy of the Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum, Busenbark Collection.

1885-86: Soldiers Occupy the Canyon

In 1876 when the Chiricahua Reservation dissolved, Cochise's followers were escorted to the White Mountain Reservation, the agency headquarters of which was located at San Carlos. It was a dismal downturn for the band. Accustomed to high mountain living and the freedom to roam over wide areas to gather foodstuffs, the adjustment to meager government rations of white flour and beef was hard. Hunger and illness dominated their experience on the reservation prompting many to break from the boundaries in attempts to restore some semblance of their former lifestyle.

The spring of 1885 marked another break out prompting the U.S. Army to respond with what would become known as the Geronimo Campaign of 1885-86. Led by Gen. George Crook, the campaign took on extraordinary characteristics. Crook believed that it took an Indian to catch an Indian and whenever possible he employed Indian Scouts to track the renegade Chiricahuas. He also used the Chiricahuas' home territory against them by deploying soldiers to known watering holes throughout southern Arizona in an effort to force them into peace negotiations.

In June 1884, regimental troops in the 6th and 4th Cavalry units had changed places. The 4th Cavalry left the Department of the Missouri and joined the Department of Arizona while the 6th Cavalry performed the reverse maneuver. It was a momentous change for at least one soldier: Swedish immigrant Neil Erickson had joined troop E of the 4th Cavalry in 1881 while it was stationed at Ojo Caliente, NM. Now, at the beginning of 1885, Erickson and many other soldiers were poised to participate in a historic campaign that crisscrossed much of Cochise County and involved many of the area's ranchers and settlers. His soldiering in Cochise County during this campaign would point Erickson's life in another direction.

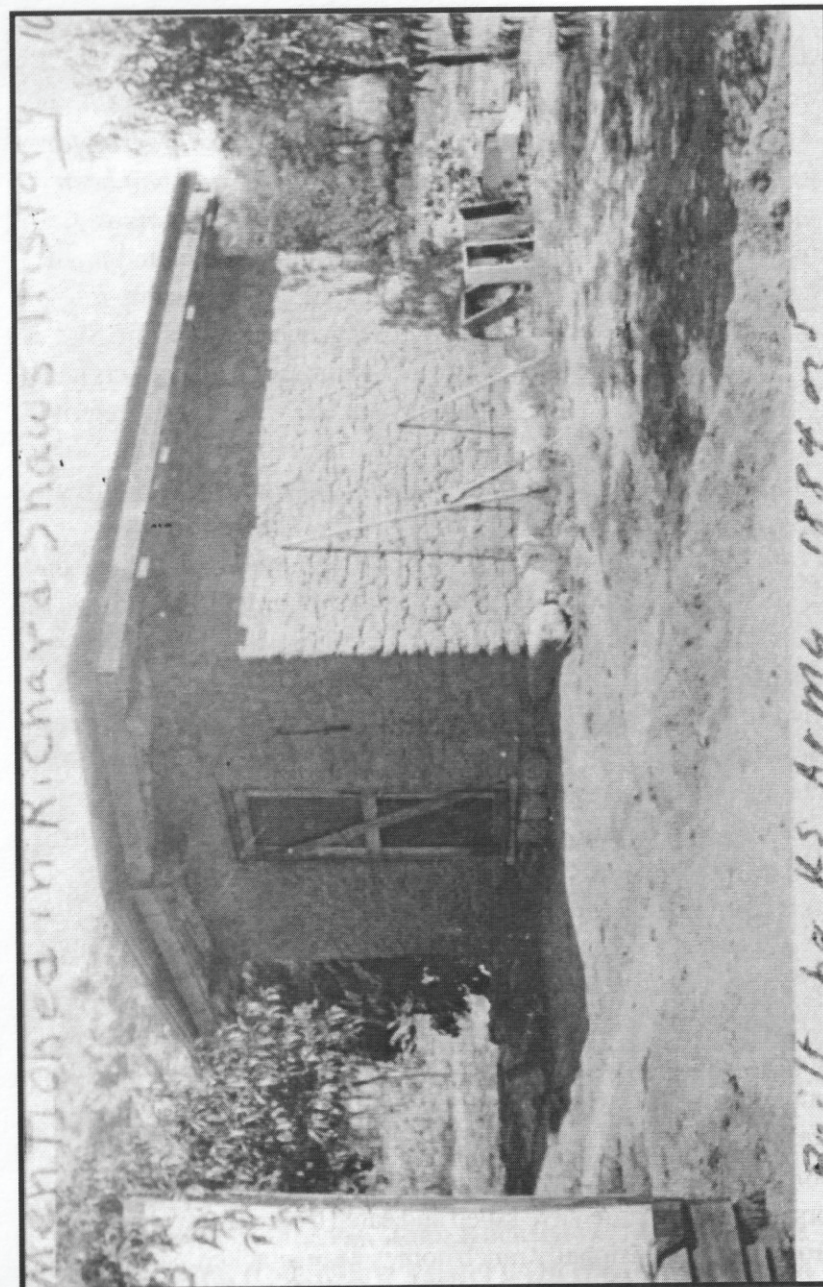
John Rockfellow described the events in the canyon several times; both in his *Log* and in articles he wrote that are currently on file at

the University of Arizona. "The warriors made several runs into the Stronghold until two companies of U.S. soldiers were stationed, one in the east canyon on the spot where Cochise had lived, and one in the west canyon." Military records of the deployment do not corroborate Rockfellow; however, there could be several reasons for this void: The right records didn't surface in my searches, the military presence in the canyon wasn't documented, or it was documented and the records are either misfiled, lost or were destroyed. What we know for certain is that the regimental returns for the 4th Cavalry filed at Ft. Bowie National Historic Park show that the troops were deployed throughout southeastern Arizona beginning in May 1885. And, from what we know about the Chiricahuas' attachment to the Dragoons and their intimate knowledge of its resources, including several dependable watering holes, it is easy to believe that it would be a natural selection for the placement of troops.

There are two buildings that have been suggested as having been constructed in the canyon during this time period. First, is what Rockfellow called an Army Depot. He described it as a sturdy adobe building used to house and protect supplies for the troops and he said that the structure was built very near former wickiup sites. Rockfellow, who was obviously in the area at the time and is considered a credible individual by historians, is likely to have noted the army's supply depot and its location accurately.

The second building that lends credence to a military presence in East Cochise Stronghold Canyon is documented with a photo taken by Flora Rockfellow, John's wife, in 1890 and gifted to the Arizona Historical Society in 1942. Information on the photo is presented by Mrs. J.B. Shaw who purchased canyon property from the Rockfellows. She writes:

House built in Cochise Stronghold, 1885 by Charles Hart, (not Rockfellow's friend Bill Hartt) a veteran of the Civil War, who ran a sutler's store while troops were stationed there during the Geronimo Campaign. Later, Mr. Hart sold to John A. Rockfellow and W.F. Servoss, owners of the NY Ranch in the valley. The house was built of split cedar posts set on end in the ground and plastered with mud. The picture was taken by Mrs.



This undated photo of the Army Depot was taken while the Shaws owned the Warren homestead property. Photo courtesy Coronado National Forest.

Rockfellow in 1890. From left to right: Judge F.R. Monk (identity disputed) B. George Gunn, Frank Tompkins, John A. Rockfellow, Miss. Caroline McNair (sister of Mrs. Rockfellow). On the tree is Gifford Allaire. Gunn and Tompkins worked for Mr. Rockfellow on the home place in the valley and had been sent on ahead of the rest of the party to watch for Indians.

Sutlers were civilian peddlers who offered comestibles and small wares to men under arms... for a price. Considered a camp follower, the sutler's monopoly at the post ensured him a profit. Still, it was a risky enterprise due to the army's movement of soldiers and the possibility of extending credit to someone who may not return from a battlefield in any condition to pay his debts.

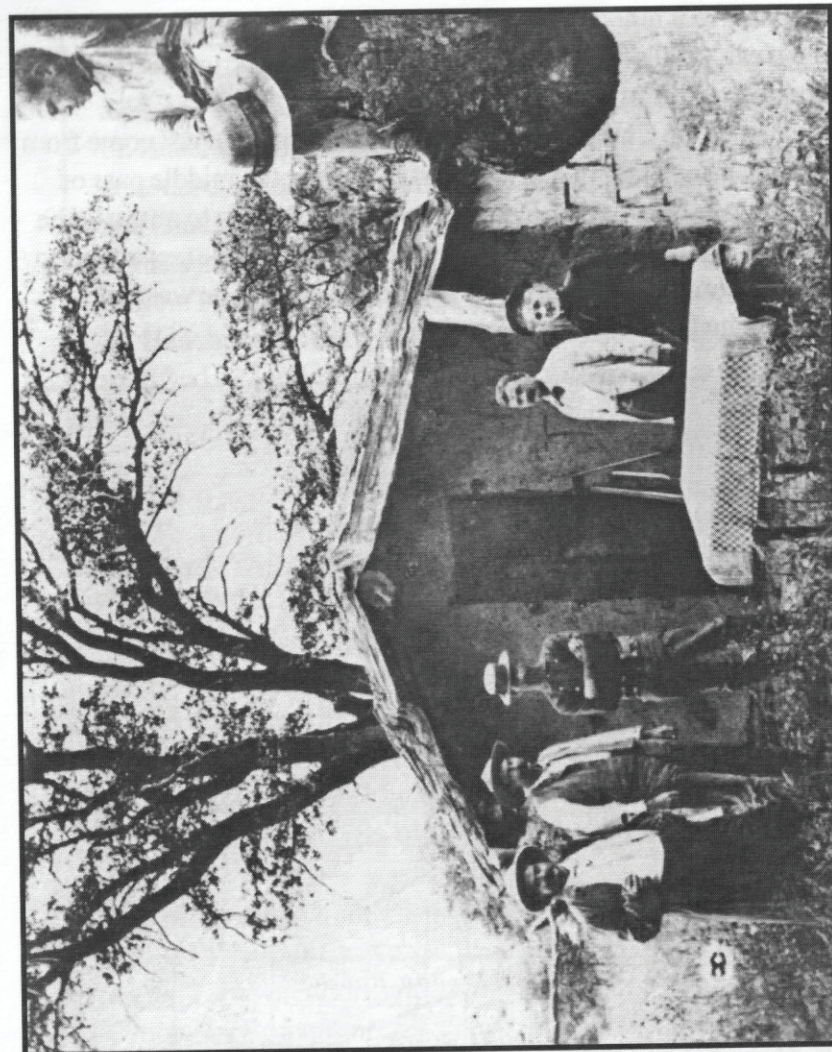
The photo of Hart's store lends additional credence to a military presence nearby. As to the location of the building, this author uncovered only two clues. The first one is a note by Mrs. Shaw on the back of a photo taken of the Warren-Guittard-Shaw house in the Stronghold. She writes, "Home of J. Rockfellow in Cochise Stronghold near the site of Hart's sutler's store." So, presumably, Hart's store was "near." But near is a relative term and it could mean nearly anything.

The second clue is the location of Hart's ranch on a map that includes many of the old roads in the area. It is possible that Hart built his sutler's store closer to his ranch home or that he built it along the road into the canyon between his ranch and the site where the soldiers were camped.

With the collective evidence of Cavalry troop deployment, photos and Rockfellow's depiction of the use of the adobe structure as a supply cache, it seems likely that troops were in camp in the Dragoons during the Geronimo Campaign.

Despite the presence of troops nearby, residents remained unsettled by renegade Apaches' activities. Ranches were raided for horses, ranging cattle were killed and eaten by those traveling through, and occasionally ranch homes were attacked. Such was the case with one rancher in Noonan Canyon near the Stronghold.

Possibly the saddest event during the Geronimo Campaign for Rockfellow was the murder of his friend and fellow rancher Mike



This 1890 photo is of the house built in 1885 by Charles Hart, a Civil War veteran, who ran a sutler's store while troops were stationed in Cochise Stronghold during the Geronimo Campaign. Pictured, from left are, unknown, B. George Gunn, Frank Tompkins, John Rockfellow, Miss Caroline McNair (Mrs. Rockfellow's sister). On the tree is Gifford Allaire.

Photo Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society/Tucson #11694.

Noonan. Rockfellow relates that he went to visit with Noonan one day in early fall of 1885. The men heard a whoop from the outside announcing the arrival of a friend. The caller was James Croly, manager of the Chiricahua Cattle Company who had just come from Tombstone and stopped in to report Indians in the middle pass of the Dragoon Mountains. Rockfellow urged Noonan to return to the NY Ranch with him by moonlight and return home the next morning. But Noonan said he would take precautions. Later he was found dead on the floor of his adobe cabin.



Noonan's ranch was located about 5.5 miles west of Pearce, according to this 1914 map made by John Rockfellow when he worked for Cochise County.

Regimental Returns, 4th Cavalry 1885

May – Troop C went to Ft. Bowie. Troops A & K left Ft. Apache. Troops C & G left Ft. Bowie. Troops B, D & J left Ft. Huachuca in pursuit of hostile Chiricahua Apache Indians. Various troops camped at Gila River, San Simon Valley and Guadalupe Canyon. May 22, troops A & K engaged Indians in Guadalupe Canyon, 1 horse killed.

June – Troop E left Ft. McDowell the 17th and marched to Ft. Huachuca where it was in camp June 30, distance marched 211 miles. June 8 the supply camp for troops B, D & J at Guadalupe Canyon was attacked by hostile Chiricahua Apache Indians.

July – Troop E left Ft. Huachuca July 5th and marched to Mud Springs arrived the 7th where it was in camp the 31st. The troop was in pursuit of hostile Indians from the 26th to the 29th. Other troops in camp in the following places:

Troop A – Silver Creek, AT

Troop B – Long Mountain, AT. Pursued 24th – 31st.

Troop C – joined Capt. Crawford's expedition in the Sierra Madres (Mexico).

Troop D – Copper Canyon, AT. Pursued 25th – 31st.

Troop F – joined Capt. Wirt Davis in the Sierra Madres.

Troop G – Rucker Canyon, AT.

Troop H – Guadalupe Canyon, AT.

Troop I – Bisbee Canyon, AT.

Troop J – no mention of location.

Troop K – Bernardino, AT (San Bernardino Ranch belonging to John Slaughter)

Troop L – Elm Springs.

Troop M – Ft. Yuma.

August – Troops remained in same camps.

September – Troops remained in same camps, noting the dates of pursuits.

October – Troop E left camp at Mud Springs on Oct. 2nd and marched to Bowie Station. Left Bowie Station and marched to Ft. Bowie. Left Ft. Bowie and returned to Mud

Springs arriving the 11th. Other troops likewise moving around but not far from their camps.

November – Troops remained in camps.

December – Troop E remained at Mud Springs until the 22nd of the month when they broke camp to pursue hostile Indians. Scouted in the vicinity of Gray's Ranch, San Simon Flat, Rucker Canyon and returned to Mud Springs the 25th. Broke camp the 30th and scouted the Sulphur Springs Valley and Mule Mountains camping on the 31st at Solomon Springs, distance marched 122 miles.

Regimental Returns, 4th Cavalry 1886

January – Troop E broke camp at Solomon Springs on the 1st, scouting the Mule Mountains and returned to camp at Mud Springs on the 3rd, distance marched 45 miles. Remained in camp at Mud Springs the rest of the month.

February – Troop E remained in camp at Mud Springs.

March – Troop E remained in camp at Mud Springs, 1 deserter.

April – Troop E left camp at Mud Springs on the 23rd of the month and marched to Towers Ranch, remaining encamped there the rest of the month, distance marched 36 miles.

May – Troop E left Towers Ranch on the 1st in pursuit of hostile Indians until the 9th when it arrived and camped at Rucker Canyon and remained there until the 17th when troop again went on scout arriving at Morse Canyon the 25th where it camped and remained, distance marched 264 miles.

June – Troop E left Morse Canyon June 1st on a scout. Camped at Rucker Canyon the 28th where it remained, distance marched 107 miles. Troop H at Cloverdale. Troop C at Ft. Leavenworth. Troop B in Mexico operating against hostiles (Lawton's unit).

July – Troop E left Rucker Canyon the 14th and proceeded to Ft. Huachuca where it arrived the 16th, distance marched 66 miles. Troop I left Bisbee Canyon and went to Rucker.

Left Rucker and camped at White's Ranch, distance marched 88 miles. Troop B is still in Mexico.

August – Troop E left Ft. Huachuca on the 18th enroute to Fronteras, Mexico. The troop returned on the 21st. Left Ft. Huachuca the 30th camping on the 31st near Bisbee, distance marched 255 miles. Troop K left Ft. Huachuca to establish courier lines to Capt. Lawton's command in Mexico, camping the 31st at San Bernardino.

September – Troop E left canyon near Bisbee and marched to Ft. Huachuca. Troop B present at the surrender of Geronimo at Skeleton Canyon, AT on the 5th. Troop escorted Geronimo and party to Ft. Bowie arriving the 8th.

October – 1st Sgt. Neil Erickson separated from Troop E due to expiration of service on the 10th of this month. Separation occurred at troop's station, Ft. Huachuca.

In summary, a review of these records gives us a picture of how Gen. Crook placed soldiers in strategic locations that would apply pressure on a nomadic people used to making a living from the benefits of the land. By locking up the springs and watering holes in this arid country, Crook was sending a message to these groups that simply could not be ignored.

Further, a review of the 6th Cavalry records for the same years shows that that cavalry unit's Troop G was in camp at Cloverdale, NM in August 1885. Troop G acted as an escort for a supply train to Nakari, Mexico returning after a march of 335 miles and then moved to Separ, NM where it remained in camp making daily patrols to Walnut Creek and north to Eureka, NM. Several other troops marched from Doubtful Pass in the Stein's Peak area to Ft. Cummings and back again during September 1886. 6th Cavalry troops' presence on the border participating on the edges of the Geronimo Campaign shows us only that some 6th Cavalry troops were operating in the area.

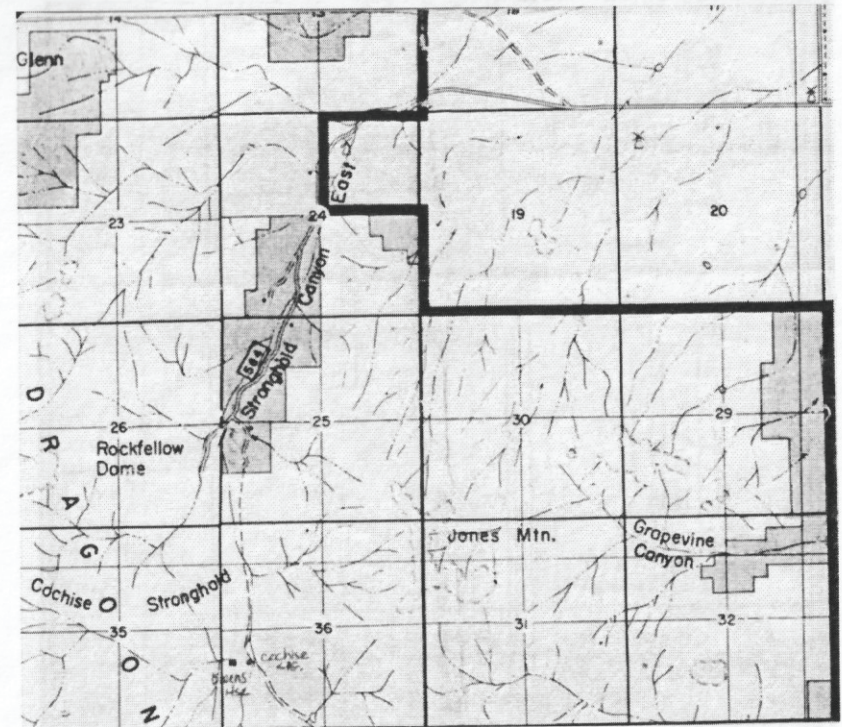
Homesteading in the Canyon

The canyon is a remarkable place to live. Entering from the north east you climb a bit in elevation from the desert floor to just about 5,000 feet. Oak trees cover the ground where they haven't been removed and a stream, sometimes, trickles through the bottom of the canyon's center wending its way out to the foothills and down into the desert. The high rock walls change color with the slant of the sun and it seems as though the canyon, although ever changing, is steadfast in character. It is quiet here and feels safe.

It must have been some of these attributes that drew Cochise and his followers here time and again. And I've heard, through many stories told by their families, that the settlers also loved the time they lived here.

Of the settlers, most of them were concentrated in Sections 24 and 25 of Township 17 South Range 23 East. To get a good orientation of where most of the settlers lived, readers can refer to the next three maps. The first map shows, by shading, just about where the floor of the canyon is located. It also includes an approximate location for a residence that was documented on a 1903 General Land Office survey map called the Owens house. According to Coronado National Forest archaeologists, the house was located a little west of Cochise Spring by the Cochise Trail. No homestead entry claim was filed for this home and the forest has no other documentation describing who was there at the time. Since the Dragoons did not come under U.S. Forest Service administration until 1907, it seems likely that the people belonging to the Owens house had moved away by that time.

The second map indicates the locations of the homestead entries filed in the canyon. Warren's entry is in the southwestern one quarter of Sect. 24 and the north half of the northwest quarter of Sect. 25. Buckley's first entry is in Sect. 25 and his later claim is in Sect. 24. The Walns entry, dated 1916, borders the Warren claim on its



This map shows Sections 24 and 25 in their relation to other nearby landmarks. The shaded parts of those sections show current privately held property.

northwest side. Rockfellow's presence and a 40-acre parcel belonging to the Chiricahua Cattle Company are also documented in Sect. 24. The whole northwest one quarter of Sect. 24 was given over to the occupation of the Cochise Stronghold Ranger Station.

Some mention should also be made of the two large mineral entries that, although they were not on the canyon floor, were in close proximity to the homesteaders. The third map shows the location of two placer claims. The first claim, located just east of Mount Glenn, was filed by Leon Ligier et al on Nov. 9, 1910. The claim included 160 acres in Sect. 13 and was patented on Jan. 4, 1913.

The second claim was filed by Cipolino and Carara on Dec. 19, 1913 and included 215 acres in Sect. 23. The claim was patented on Nov. 19, 1914.

On this third map, too, is the only evidence I can find for the existence of a woman known only as Miss Kerwin who is mentioned by Rockfellow in his *Log*. Rockfellow recalls that he advised Miss Kerwin, who had come to Arizona for health reasons, to look at the Dragoons for a possible homestead site. In the *Log*, he says he leant her a wagon and she took two female companions with her to look over the place for herself. But it was a wet spring and the washes were running high. The ladies became separated from their team and wagon and waited through the night in a pouring rain before being rescued the next morning. Rockfellow does not say whether Miss Kerwin found a home site or not. And a search of homestead entries, the name Kerwin does not appear. But to this day, Kerwin Canyon is on the map near Carlink Spring.

Red Warren's Home

Author's Note: *John Warren's granddaughter and great-granddaughter visited the Stronghold on April 6, 2001. During their visit they shared family stories and later mailed copies of the family's photos and vital statistics. This chapter is compiled from our combined notes, records and photos. Other family members also visited the homestead at a later date.*

In 1873, a Kansas-born boy left home at an age that often passed for manhood then – he was 14 years old. John Henry 'Red' Warren was the second child of eight born to Mary Madeline Crocker and James Warren.

Family stories, provided by John Warren's granddaughter, Jessie Gatlin, will have to suffice for some of his history, since he was not a man who felt compelled to record his life in letters, diaries or journals. Warren's great granddaughter and one of the family's genealogists, Noma Foltz, verified much of the family's trek West through a concentrated search for documentation among the states' and counties' vital statistics bureaus.

John Henry Warren was called 'Red' due to his red hair and



Lucinda Diadema Harris and John Henry 'Red' Warren pose for a formal portrait that may have been taken on or near the date of their 1889 marriage. Photo courtesy of the Warren family.

mustache, says Jessie. Early research shows Warren to be the offspring of an Irish father and at least partially Indian mother (tribe unknown). Jessie said that Red told his children he'd run away from home because he and his mother did not get along. Red, according to Jessie, said he'd been a buffalo hunter for a time and was briefly employed with Wild Bill Cody's Western Show.

Warren was in White Oaks, New Mexico when, at the age of 30, he married Lucinda 'Lulu' Harris in March 1889, who had just turned 15 years old.

Lulu was born in Missouri to Sarah Malcom and John Harris, and was reportedly Warren's second wife. Nothing is known of his first wife except that she may have had a child by him and that they became separated.

Red and Lulu's journey to Arizona can be traced through nothing more than the birth recordings of their children. Their first born, Albert, made his appearance in December 1890 in Granbury, TX. A second son, named Jacob and called Gene, was born in January 1895 somewhere in Texas. Their next son is recorded as having been born Jan. 1, 1896 in Separ, New Mexico. That child, Walter, is recorded as having died on the first of January three years later in 1899.

By then the Warren family had moved to Pearce, AT (Arizona Territory). Lilly Mae, the couple's first daughter, is recorded as being born in July 1898 in Pearce. Another document, a homestead entry, substantiates the family's residence in the East Cochise Stronghold Canyon at the time and the 1900 Census records place John Warren and his younger brother, Richard (listed as a day laborer), in the canyon as well.

The Homestead

Red Warren is described on the homestead record and through family stories as a woodcutter, freighter and cattle rancher. As men of his time did, Red likely had several pursuits that he worked at simultaneously.

He established his homestead in the Cochise Stronghold Canyon



This photo was taken in late 1916 or early 1917, family members say, due to the age of the youngest child who was Carl Wilson. Pictured are, back row from left, George, John Henry and Ben Seaver (Lillian's husband); middle row from left, Francis Marion, Lucinda holding Carl, Lillian Seaver holding daughter Peggy and Effie. The toddler in between the two infants is Anna Madeline.

Photo courtesy of the Warren family.

at the site where the now-closed U.S. Forest Service Administrative Site is located – the big rock house to the left as you make a sharp right turn in the last mile going toward the developed campground. Red's entry was for 160 acres. He constructed a three-room frame and adobe house which measured 12 feet by 36 feet to house his family. He also built a windmill and fenced five acres of the land. A Forest Service Report on Agricultural Settlement dated July 28, 1908 shows that Warren made final proof on the homestead entry on Oct. 30, 1907. By then he had about 50 acres that was considered tillable and 2 acres planted in wheat. The family also had a

garden and fruit trees and about 10 acres of the property was considered timbered. The report also shows Red had 70 cattle and three horses.

Although several dates have been proposed as marking the beginning of Red's occupation in the Stronghold Canyon, the date on the Agricultural Claim is February 1899. He filed on the land Aug. 8, 1903. The couple's next four children were born while they lived there. George was born in May 1901; Emma, also called Marian, was born in 1905; an unnamed boy was born and died in 1906 and Effie was born in May 1908. Jessie said her mother, Effie, always said the highlight of her life was that she was born in Cochise's Stronghold.

It was also during this period that the Warrens got their first full-time neighbors, the Buckleys, who took a 90-acre agricultural claim just south of the Warren homestead. The Buckleys moved into the canyon in May of 1907, 11 months after the Agricultural Claims act was approved and the same month that the U.S. Forest Service had taken the Dragoons and, by proclamation, created Dragoon National Forest (May 25, 1907).

The Family Moves

According to family stories, Warren lost his homestead claim in a card game. Forest Service records show only that the homestead was inspected by U.S. Forest Ranger Bertsal W. Jones and approved for transfer to Mrs. Clem Guitard. The document, dated July 21, 1908 says: "Final receipt has been issued and J.H. Warren has conveyed by deed all rights and title to Mrs. Clem Guitard on May 28, 1908. Deed was recorded at Tombstone County Seat of Cochise Co., A.T. June 29, 1908. Patent should be granted. Claimant has lived continuously the required 5 years and has complied fully with the homestead laws."

The Warren family moved from their canyon home shortly after Effie's birth and made their way to St. David where, in December 1913 a girl was born to them: Ann Madeline. Three years later, the birth of son, Carl, in October 1916 places the family's location in Florence, AZ.

According to documentation collected by the Arizona Pioneers Home, Warren was admitted to the home on Oct. 30, 1930 from Cochise County, arriving there for admittance on Nov. 13th of that year. He died July 13, 1932 and is buried at the Arizona Pioneers Home cemetery. Lulu died Feb. 11, 1956 at the Arizona Pioneers Home and is buried there as well.

The Homestead Changes Hands

Alfonse Guitard and his wife, Clemence, became the new owners of the Red Warren homestead and together with their daughter moved onto the property. Alfonse, according to family records shared with the Cochise County Historical Society, ran a drayage business. Others recall that he was a blacksmith in Pearce and that he worked at the Commonwealth mine. But Alfonse died in 1911, leaving his widow and daughter at the homestead. Mrs. Guitard sold the Warren homestead to John Rockfellow who, by then, had sold his interest in the NY Ranch but held some cattle. Since all of this was public information, the *Tombstone Prospector* saw fit to publish the property's change in ownership in the March 7, 1977 issue. The *Prospector's* headline read:

Cochise Stronghold Now A Cattle Range Historic Rendezvous of Bloodthirsty Apaches – Famous Pioneer Cochise Incidents Recalled Natural Fortress Abiding Place of Chief

The article began: "Yesterday J.A. Rockfellow, the well and favorably known civil engineer, purchased from Mrs. Clem Guitard the 'Red' Warren ranch, which includes the greater portion of the historic Cochise Stronghold."

Rockfellow, by now, was residing in Tombstone, AZ with his wife, Flora. The couple had two daughters and one son while Rockfellow, in his early 50s, held the position of Cochise County Surveyor.

Rockfellow had earlier purchased a 40-acre parcel in the canyon, and had built a three-room adobe cabin on it. That property will be discussed later. Meanwhile, the Rockfellows extended a hearty welcome to another family who came to the area from Illinois.

The Shaws come to Arizona

Richard J. Shaw, a boy who grew to manhood during the years he lived in the canyon, became a well-known figure in the county. It's really no wonder, because he had a marvelous story to tell about his introduction to Arizona and Richard is still remembered today as having a talent for telling a good story. Richard wrote "Stronghold Memories" for the Spring 1994 issue of *The Cochise Quarterly*, published by the Cochise County Historical Society. He began this narrative with arriving in Cochise:

In early February of 1916, my mother and I got off the train at Cochise. Philip Rockfellow met us with a wagon for the 16-mile drive to the Stronghold, where we rented a cabin from his family. My father was teaching at the University of Illinois at Urbana, but because of my severe asthma, Mother (Charlotte J. Shaw) and I were trying Arizona. I was 11 years old.

Richard continues, "After we had been in the Stronghold a month, Pancho Villa raided Columbus, N.M., and Dad wrote to get out of Arizona. Late in March we took the long ride back to Cochise... Four years later, in January of 1920, my asthma was bad again and Mother and I came back to Arizona."

Richard and his mother's second attempt at living in Arizona stuck. They purchased the Warren-Guitard-Rockfellow house, improvements and the southern 80 acres of Warren's original homestead entry.

Richard describes the purchase as: "The south half of the L-shaped 160... including the Indian campsite (though nothing was left of Indian culture), the army adobe, the Warren adobe, a board and batten addition, 2 rooms, circa Guitard, a 12 x 12 cast concrete kitchen circa Rockfellow and a board and batten "saddle house," two dug wells one by the creek, abandoned, and one by the house, with a tank and windmill. There was about 2 acres of



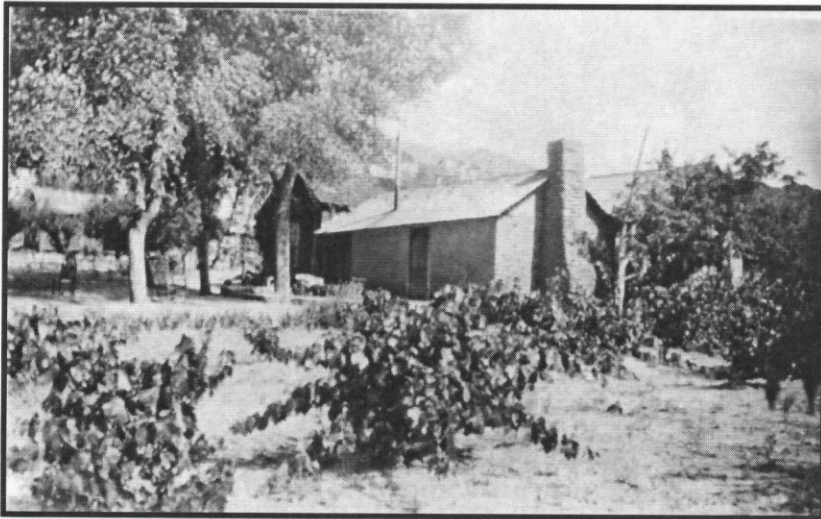
In this 1916 photo are Mr. and Mrs. Rockfellow and their dog, Skip. To the right is Charlotte J. Shaw and in front of her is son, Richard who is hiding behind Skip.

Photo courtesy Cochise County Historical Society.

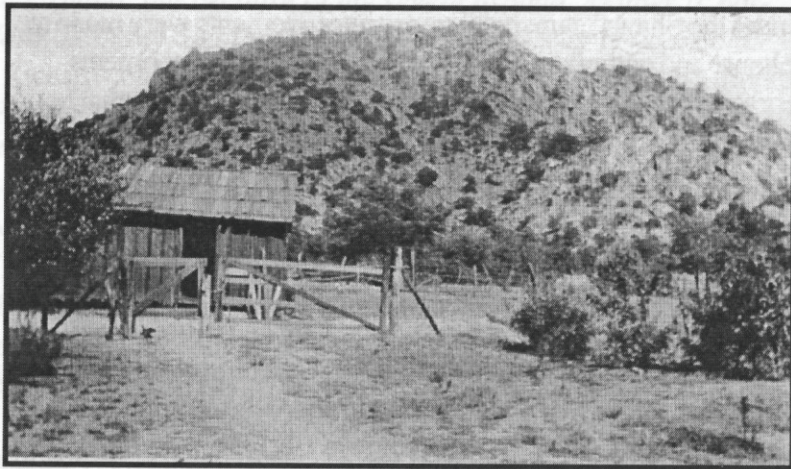
cleared land and a slightly improved road across the place to Buckleys and on about a mile that Warren had built to haul wood on."

Under the Shaws' care, many more improvements were made to the house and outbuildings and several agricultural experiments were attempted. Richard recalls in his "Memories" article that he "spent hours drawing plans for a two-stall garage and shop to be made of stone" as his grandfather Joy had done with the bedroom wing the summer before. After making up his materials list and putting in the order at a Willcox lumber yard, Richard began hauling rock and sand. Eventually, his labors in the summer of 1923 produced the stone garage which is still standing and in use at the current Forest Service administrative site. Other improvements Richard, his father J.B. Shaw, and his grandpa Joy completed included the addition of two bedrooms in 1922 and a dining room on the west side of the house in 1924 that closed off the breezeway.

On one portion of the 80 acres, Richard cleared land and planted 400 peach trees. And after planting them, he was their only reliable source for water until they matured. Using a 50-gallon drum, a team-drawn wagon and a three-gallon bucket, the energetic Rich-



When Charlotte and Richard Shaw returned to the canyon in 1920, they purchased the Warren homestead. This photo, dated 1920, may have been taken by Charlotte. Photo courtesy Cochise County Historical Society.

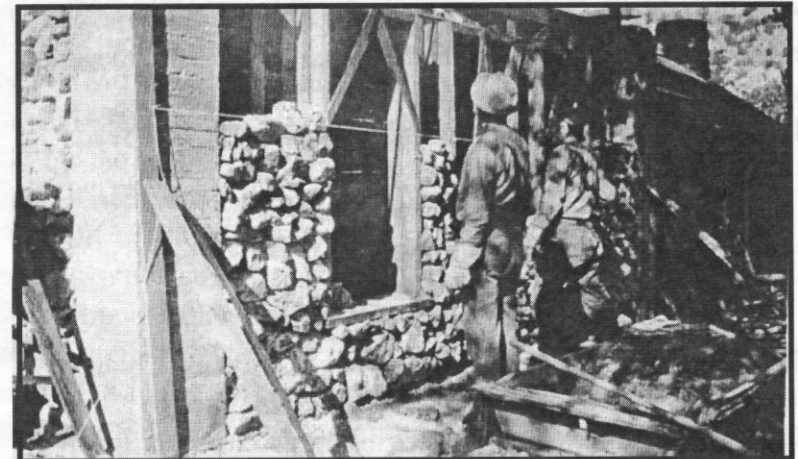


This photo, dated 1921, shows the tackhouse that Richard credited to John Rockfellow. Richard later dismantled the tackhouse and built a rock garage. Photo courtesy Cochise County Historical Society.

ard could water about 20 trees per trip. He said it took him “about two days” to make it all the way around the peach orchard. Shut-tling between the canyon home in the summer and the University of Arizona during the school term, Richard managed to obtain his degree in chemistry graduating June 5, 1929 and make a commercial endeavor out of the peach orchard selling most of the produce



Richard Shaw in 1921 with his dog, Bo. Photo courtesy Cochise County Historical Society.



In 1922 Richard, right, and his Grandpa Joy added bedrooms to the Warren-Rockfellow house. Photo courtesy Cochise County Historical Society.

in towns throughout Cochise County. Other agricultural endeavors at the home place, included 125 almond trees, ½ an acre of grapes, grafting of walnut trees, and planting jujube, pomegranate and pistachio trees.

Richard's father, J.B. Shaw, retired from the University of Illinois at the end of the 1933 summer session and moved to the Stronghold to stay. It was a welcome change for the family to be all in one place again, especially since Richard had married and was now engaged in supporting his family by moving from job to job in southern Arizona working mainly in the mining industry using his chemistry degree.

The Land is Divided

The Shaw family retained ownership of the southern half of the Warren homestead for 37 years, selling much of it to Charles Getz (sometimes spelled Goetz or Getts) in 1957. Getz, credited with replanting the orchard about this time, died a few years later in 1963. The Warren home place was also briefly owned by James E. and L.M. Brophy. The Brophys, who had owned 49 acres and the Warren house, sold the property to the Coronado National Forest in 1969 – an event that sparked some controversy in the area judging by the *Tombstone Epitaph's* full-page editorial on the federal land acquisition that included three tracts of land amounting to the total acreage cited in the article.

The *Epitaph's* headline on Thursday, January 29, 1970 read:

**EXORBITANT?
Forest Service Paid Out
\$133,000 For 70 Acres
Of Rocks And Brush.
FROM PUBLIC POCKET.**

The article begins: “‘Smoky Bear’ bought a Cochise County ‘bee tree’ last year and the American public was stung.”

The article continues by characterizing the purchases as fiscally unsound: “... the public is considered by many to have been stung by what appears to be an exorbitant price for goat pasture that the Chuckling Green Giant didn't need.

“Besides being rough and remote, the area contains little land that is capable of supporting stock grazing. Salable timber is non-existent (sic) and the single feature that gives the Forest Service any excuse to administer it is the fact that they have developed a small campground in the canyon.”

With the Forest Service's acquisition, the Warren homestead claim completed an ownership circle that began with federal ownership and, to date, has ended there. On the property today, the house and garage still stand. Artifact debris, such as broken bits of china, lengths of barbed wire, nails and the occasional rusted shovel head are all that is found to attest to structures that have come and gone throughout the years and owners. Many of the Shaws' trees survive on the grounds, including the pistachios, pomegranates, jujubes, a few grafted specimens and from the Getz era are two old apricot trees that stand alone in the middle of what used to be an orchard. (By the way, the apricots from those trees are superior to any other apricot I've had. They are about half the size of apricots found in supermarkets and have a sweetness and tang to them that nothing else available matches.)

As his mother aged, Richard sold much of the Shaw family holdings in the canyon which, all total, amounted to 170 acres (Charlotte had purchased 90 acres of the Buckley homestead). Charlotte died in 1966 at the age of 88. But Richard held on to a 4-acre parcel where he and his wife, Patricia, retired to in 1969. After Patricia's death in 1981, Richard moved into the valley in 1984 where he resided at the home of his second wife, Marie Edwards. He gifted his final 4-acre parcel in the Dragoons to the Chiricahua Apaches at Ft. Sill, OK in 1989. After 69 years, the Shaw family ended their ownership presence in the canyon. But Richard remained a vital part of the community often sharing his memories with friends and new residents until his death in October 1994.

Richard left a legacy of personal and community history in his written and oral memoirs. On a lasting note, he tells us that despite the fact that the Army adobe was removed by the Forest Service in the early 1970s, its location is marked by the cement slab still in place. Richard says that while his family owned the property, his

father used the adobe as an office and, in an effort to make it more comfortable, they poured a cement floor in it.

The Buckley Homestead

Herbert S. Buckley brought his wife and daughter to the Stronghold Canyon in May 1907. The family began their homesteading effort on land south of the Warren family, applying to the U.S. Forest Service for 160 acres.

But an inspection of the property on Oct. 26, 1907 by Assistant Ranger Birtsal Jones, revealed that many acres Buckley wanted included were unworthy of agricultural attempts. Jones, instead, recommended only 90 acres be approved for the claim and noted that the "extremely rough rocky mountain sides...are totally unfit for agricultural or grazing purposes."

In his report, Jones found that "the soil is a combination of silt and sand and decomposed granite. The granite predominating, is very porous and will dry out quickly. Irrigation impracticable, winter rains furnish sufficient moisture to grow hardy winter cereals on the mesas. The small flats along the main wash are composed of decayed vegetable matter, are very fertile, and there is sufficient water from snow melting on the high peaks at the head of the Canyon to irrigate the flats for early spring vegetables."

The ranger estimated the area's annual rainfall "at or about 20 inches," and said that the location was excellent for headquarters for a stock ranch due to sufficient water sources and because most of the 90 acres would raise hay and grain.

Jones recommended approval for a 90-acre claim with this conclusion, "This land is chiefly valuable for agricultural purposes and is not necessary for public uses."

It's important to note the date of this first inspection on Buckley's claim. Unlike Warren's first inspection which came after years of occupation, Buckley's first inspection came only five months after he'd settled on the land. He hadn't had time to make many improvements and one of the stipulations of proving up a homestead claim is that the homestead claim must be lived on.

When Richard Shaw returned to the Stronghold in 1920, he noted that Mr. Buckley, his wife and two daughters were living on a 30-acre parcel of land in the southwest quarter of Sect. 24 instead of on their original homestead. He explains what he knew of the situation then: "They had a large orchard, 25-30 acres, across the saddle from the Rockfellows. They also had a place with two orchards south of our place (the Warren place). They homesteaded there in 1907 or 1908 and the U.S. Forest Service tried to get their entry canceled. They finally appealed to Pres. Theodore Roosevelt and he ruled for them, and noted they were entitled to an additional 70 acres. So they took the lower place and moved down there."

Buckley received a patent on the first 90 acres on Aug. 2, 1913. The claim involving the new 30-acre orchard was inspected and approved in June 1916, nearly four years after the family moved to the second parcel. Records conflict as to whether the new claim was for a total of 30 or 70 acres. Former U.S. soldier and then Forest Ranger Neil Erickson inspected the claim in March 1916 noting that the Buckley family had lived there since June 22, 1912. "The entire 30 acres are cultivated and planted to Fruit Trees," Erickson states. When the orchard is transferred later, it's noted that 70 acres were involved in the sale.

Buckley's improvements on the second claim, the ranger listed as "a frame house 22' x 28' ... Four rooms, valued \$150.00...a chicken house 10' x 12' Cost \$20.00" and noted household furniture consisting of a cook stove, heating stove, two beds, three or four tables, cupboard, chairs, a bookcase and cooking utensils of all descriptions, and farming implements including a plow, cultivator and harrow.

"In actual cultivation 30 acres, all planted to fruit trees, and are from one to three years old, about \$50.00 was realized from the older trees during the season of 1915. Trees are nearly all peaches, none are under ditch but attended to by dry farming method, There is no 'slash,' cultivation is clean, and cost about \$5.00 per acre. The value of the land as it now is, would be not less than \$25.00 per acre," Erickson documents on the inspection report.

He concludes, "Applicants original homestead on section 25 in the

same Township and Range to which this is an additional, all does not exceed 160 acres...the land is at present most valuable for horticulture."

The Buckleys success at peach farming became well known throughout the area. Newspaper accounts and personal diaries mention the outstanding quality of the produce and that the peaches were made available for purchase in towns throughout the county. Richard Shaw noted that their success was due, at least in part, to a wet spell but a late frost in the early 1920s led to widespread crop failure. As a result the Buckley family was in a financial bind and they decided to sell the two non-contiguous parcels of their patented homestead claim.

Hamilton L. Kegans and wife May Parker Kegans, were children of early Texas settlers. They arrived in Cochise County in 1910. Photo courtesy of Elva Lane.



Two Families Move in: The Kegans and the Wheelers

Richard Shaw recalled that his mother wanted to purchase the 90-acre parcel that bordered their land on the south side, but that Mr. **H.L. Kegans** put his money into Mr. Buckley's hands about one day before Charlotte received her money from back East.

The Kegans family had come to the Sulphur Spring Valley from Texas in 1910. When they arrived in Cochise by train, a relative who had preceded them to Arizona Territory met them with modern conveyance—a wagon. The family consisted of Hamilton L. Kegans, his wife Ila May, the couple's married son, Walter, and his wife, Cynthia, and four unmarried daughters, Leta, Beatrice, Jewell and Goldia.

When the H.L. Kegans purchased Buckley's former 90-acre parcel in 1924 the orchards were still producing fruit and continued to produce fruit for many years to come. Eventually, the Kegans sold the property. Much of the land in the canyon that remains in private ownership today began as the Kegans' original 90-acre homestead entry.

Buckley's buyer for the now-famous 30-acre peach orchard in Sect. 24 was a former captain of the Arizona Rangers and one of Cochise County's most famous sheriffs, **Harry Wheeler**. By the time he arrived in the Stronghold, Wheeler was a man known throughout Arizona Territory as an outstanding lawman.

Wheeler, the son of a career Army soldier and himself a cavalryman, was assigned to the 14th Cavalry stationed at Ft. Grant in October 1901 when he caught a vicious kick in the stomach while pulling stable duty. Nearly a year later, he had not recovered sufficiently, and was recommended for medical discharge. With his wife, Mamie, and son, Allyn, Wheeler settled in Willcox to begin civilian life. He hired out as a laborer, but shortly moved the family to Tombstone where he tried mining. Meanwhile, he had his eye on the newly formed company called the Arizona Rangers.

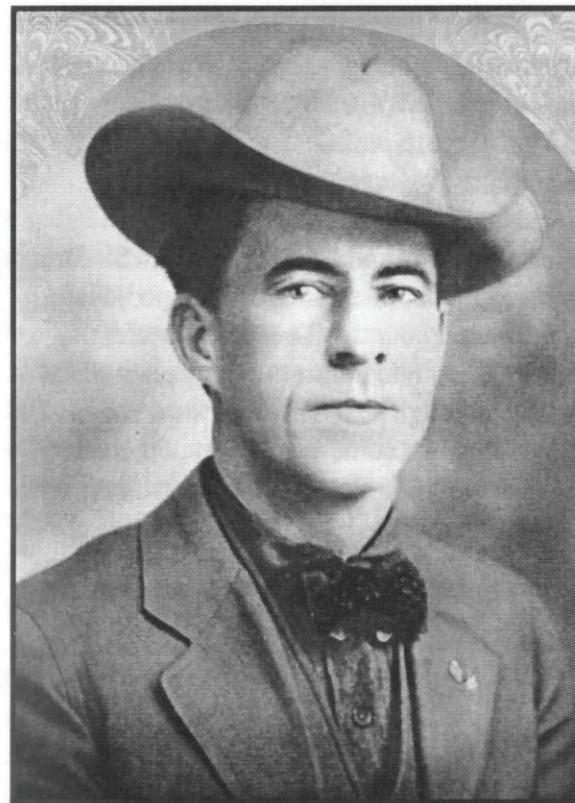
The Arizona Rangers were created by territorial legislation in March 1901. Designed to thwart the increasingly bold cattle rustlers, the Rangers were empowered to arrest lawbreakers anywhere in the territory. The Rangers' first captain was Burt Mossman, who hired the first men and organized the group in a paramilitary structure using ranks including privates, sergeants and lieutenants with himself as captain. Mossman stepped down after a year and Lt. Thomas H. Rynning was selected as captain. It was under Rynning's command that Harry Wheeler's application was accepted in July 1903.

Rynning noted Wheeler's qualities immediately and four months later Wheeler was promoted to sergeant. He was Rynning's lieutenant when Rynning resigned. Wheeler was appointed captain of the Arizona Rangers in March 1907. Cooperating law enforcement officers and residents alike could not express praise high enough for Captain Wheeler. He was consistently described as "fair...honorable... intelligent...cool, skillful and daring."

Despite, or perhaps because of, the Rangers' astounding success at cleaning up the rustlers in the territory, lawmakers discontinued the Ranger organization in February 1909. Again at a loose end, Wheeler gravitated to the U.S. Customs and performed as a mounted inspector for two years.

Urged to run for the office of county sheriff, Wheeler announced his candidacy in 1911. He won the primary race and campaigned through December eventually winning the general election by more than 600 votes. On Feb. 14, 1912, Wheeler and the other elected county officials gathered in Tombstone to be sworn in after legislation granting Arizona statehood had been signed.

Turn-of-the-century territorial legislators had been pushing for statehood for years. But Arizona's image in Washington, D.C. was not favorable: It was perceived as a hangout for cattle rustlers and other notorious criminals, and many of those criminals were known to spend a great deal of their time in Cochise County. Arizona lawmakers formed the Arizona Rangers in a desperate attempt to rid the territory of its lawless element and, amazingly, it worked! Then, the last captain of Rangers becomes Cochise County's first



Harry C. Wheeler was the last captain of the Arizona Rangers and Cochise County's first sheriff under statehood. Photo courtesy Pam Hamlett

Sheriff under statehood.

As Sheriff, Wheeler had countless adventures. Not the least of which included his purchase of a Ford Roadster in 1913 and his many attempts at "testing its limits," as noted in the *Tombstone Prospector*. Re-elected for the 1914 term, Wheeler faced the enforcement of prohibition laws effective in January 1915. The same year, his only child, Allyn, was badly wounded when the car he was riding in plunged off the road. The 17-year-old boy died in October of that year succumbing to his injuries seven months after the accident.

Wheeler won re-election for the 1916 term, but told constituents it would be his last race. It was during this term he became involved in the infamous "Bisbee Deportation," after the IWW called a strike at the town's mines in June 1917. Despite support from residents of Bisbee and surrounding communities, Wheeler dealt with the

controversy of that incident for the rest of his career.

During his last term as Sheriff, Wheeler led a posse to find Tom and John Powers, who had been involved in a shoot-out with the Graham County Sheriff and three deputies. The Graham County Sheriff had gone to the remote Powers cabin to arrest the men for ignoring a draft summons, but he, two deputies and the brothers' father were killed in the battle. Tom and John, led by Tom Sisson, tried to elude capture while a manhunt utilizing several posses and military units combed the border counties for them. Wheeler took his men to the Dragoon and the Chiricahua mountains using bloodhounds and Indian scouts. Although he did not locate the brothers, after capture they said Wheeler had come within feet of them and they were prepared to shoot him if he had turned in their direction.

Wheeler resigned as sheriff in 1918 accepting a commission as

**Jessie and Jack
Wheeler, Harry
and Jessie's
children who spent
their younger
years at the
orchard in the
Stronghold. Photo
courtesy Pam
Hamlett.**



captain assigned to the 308th Cavalry. Weeks after accepting, Wheeler went to France with his unit, all the while repeating his request for a combat position. Finally, his orders to go to the front arrived, but Wheeler was called back to the U.S. while legal arguments continued from the 1917 Deportation of IWWs. He was cleared in the case, but his marriage with Mamie dissolved and once again Wheeler started in a new direction.

Wheeler began by marrying 18-year-old Jessie Wills of Douglas, a woman Wheeler's grandchildren say "was the love of his life." Their affection was mutual, according to family members. The couple bought a ranch in the Chiricahua mountains near the tiny community of Rucker. But range conditions deteriorated and they sold their cattle the next year. The couple welcomed their first child, named William but called Jack in 1921. Wheeler ran for Cochise County Sheriff one last time, but lost the race and moved to Douglas to develop mining leases. His daughter, Jessie, was born there in 1923.

His next decision put Wheeler back in the local newspapers: In October 1923 Wheeler "purchased the famous peach orchard of H.S. Buckley in Cochise Stronghold, consisting of 70 acres." He and his family moved to the Buckley cabin on the property immediately, although Wheeler also continued to develop mining interests.

The couple's third child, Robert, died three months after his birth in December 1924, and the family moved to Warren. The following year Harry, at the age of 50, fell ill. He did not recover.

After Harry's death, Jessie moved with her children back to the orchard in Cochise Stronghold where she remained for two years. She, Jack and Jessie were returning from a walk one day when they found the house in flames. They lost their house and all of its contents except for a rug Jessie grabbed from the doorway before the heat and smoke drove her back. Jessie and the children returned to Douglas and eventually sold the orchard property.

Richard Shaw recalled that Jessie told him she'd lost two platinum rings in the fire that were precious to her because they came from Harry. The rings, she said, had been on a peg above the kitchen counter and showed him a glob of metal she'd retrieved from the kitchen area. Richard took the metal with him to a lab and dissolved

the metal but he found no diamonds from the rings.

In 2005, Harry and Jessie's descendants visited the Stronghold and the land where the long-gone orchard once thrived. Pam Hamlett, Harry and Jessie's granddaughter, said her mother had fond memories of growing up in the canyon and often told them that one day she wanted to return.

Subsequent owners of the land where the orchard once stood included L. B. 'Burns' Blanton and Giff Allaire – the boy in the tree from the Hart house photo – who both ranged cattle on the land. The land where the Buckley-Wheeler orchard once stood remains privately owned today.

A Few Acres

The final homestead began in the canyon was established by Mr. and Mrs. James W. Waln of Pearce. (Although nearly every reference made to this couple spells their last name as "Wahn," their homestead entry spells the name "Waln." This story will use the spelling on the homestead entry form.) The couple had five children who were grown and gone when the couple came to the Stronghold on Nov. 19, 1912.

Ranger Birtsal Jones inspected their homestead entry that year, approving the claim for 22.5 acres. Of the acreage, Jones said about 20 was able to be cultivated and about 2.5 acres contained rocky edifices that defied tilling methods. Jones noted that the land was similar to that of other places in the canyon where milo maize, sorghum, oats, beans and corn were being cultivated with success. Of the forest value, Jones documented the presence of "two cords of black and White Oak per acre, second growth about 25 years old, stumpage value \$1.00 per acre, total stand on entire area 45 cords." A few young trees, about 50 on the whole claim of mostly White oak, one to 10 years of age, were also listed on the homestead entry application.

Jones' inspection report also documented the names of two people who apparently had been occupying the land the couple now wanted to homestead. In the "Settlement" section of Jones'

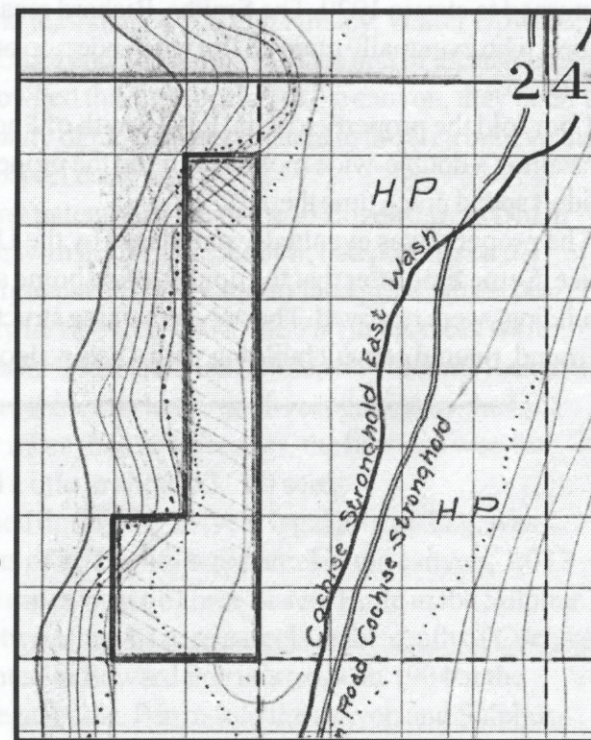
report, he notes "Occupied by Frederick C. Luck under Free Special Use Permit (8-31-09) issued in connection with an application to have the land listed under the Act of June 11, 1906. Luck left the country, I have not seen or heard of him since that time. There are no improvements on the land, and no crops have been grown, . . . has been used as part of the range."

In the "Claims" section of the report, Jones writes "The Special Use mentioned above, and a Special Use Application by Harry S. Ross of Tombstone. No improvements have been made."

Ranger Neil Erickson examined the Walns' homestead on May 9, 1916 finding that they had built themselves a home that consisted of two tents with floors and walls and a fly stretched between them forming a hall or breezeway. The couple had about 100 chickens and a coop, a 26-foot well and a shed made of corrugated iron. They kept a milk cow and two work mules.

Erickson noted that the couple had 17 acres planted to fruit trees including apple, peach, pear and plum from one to three years of

Ranger Birtsal Jones made the original map from which this rendition is copied. The homestead entry filed for the Walns was for 22.5 acres in Sect. 24. Courtesy of Coronado National Forest.



age. None of the trees were ditch irrigated. The couple had also planted several acres to beans and had tried milo maize and cane but neither of the last two crops had matured.

"The dwelling on the place has at the present time not the appearance of a permanent home, but the young orchard is kept in the best possible condition, and a house will probably be built in the near future," Erickson concludes. The Walns received their patent in December 1916.

Richard Shaw remembers the Walns (he called them the Wahns) as "an elderly couple" in the canyon when he visited in 1916. But, by the time he returned in 1920, the couple had moved on and a new family lived on the property and cared for the orchard.

The Smiths move in

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith purchased the 22-acre homestead from the Walns and moved to the property shortly after the Shaws returned to stay in 1920. The Smiths, Richard recalls, had one child, Lora, who eventually married Darwin Anderson of Kansas Settlement.

Lora sold the property to Mrs. Faye Smith of Phoenix, but after installing a double-wide mobile home on the property, Mrs. Smith didn't spend much time there.

The property was eventually purchased by the U.S. Forest Service. Some time after that the double-wide home and other out-buildings were removed. The only remaining structure on the site is a round, poured cement building with a heavy door on it.

An Old Adobe

On one 40-acre parcel in Cochise Stronghold Canyon there sits an old adobe finished in the old-fashioned way: its outside walls are covered and smoothed with mud enabling rain to run uninhibited to the ground. The smooth walls provide a sheeting action, protecting the adobe bricks beneath and the building will stand the violent thunderstorms of the southwest in much better condition than those buildings with walls of exposed adobe bricks.

When the building was built, and by whom, is unknown to date. There is no record of it being a homestead property and yet this parcel was occupied before Red Warren lived in the canyon.

Some have suggested that it was built by the men of the Chiricahua Cattle Company who pooled their assets in the spring of 1885 to form a more competitive organization. The men who threw their acres and cattle into one pot were Theodore White, James and Sumner Vickers and their neighbors, J.C. Pursley, Walter Upward, J.G. Maxwell, McClure and J.E. Brophy. But if one of these men believed that they owned this little pocket in the canyon, they hadn't recorded it. Still, many of the mature ranchers in the area believe the CCC claimed the parcel early on.

The parcel was first patented in the name of Edward B. Perrin in 1904. Perrin, along with his brother, Robert, had purchased the 130,000-acre San Ignacio del Babocomari land grant which became U.S. property in 1874. By 1878, the Perrin brothers were advertising Arizona land for sale. Meanwhile, they became locked in a legal battle to have their title to the grant recognized by the U.S. government. After more than two decades, the brothers won but they only received a title to about 33,700 acres.

What had happened during the 23-year legal proceeding, was settlement. And lots of it. The 40-acre parcel in the canyon, 1,032 acres located three miles west of Three Sisters Butte in the Sulphur Spring Valley and two other 40-acre parcels in the south of Cochise County were patented in Edward Perrin's name in 1904 at the conclusion of the legal battle. Perrin sold the canyon and Sulphur



The old adobe house is commonly thought to have been a lineshack for the Chiricahua Cattle Co. between 1885 and 1912. Photo by J. T. Holt.

Spring Valley properties to the CCC before the ink was dry on his patent.

Former canyon resident, Betty Gibbens Allaire, said in an interview in June 2001 that she knew for a fact that the adobe house was used as a line shack by the CCC because her uncle, Henry Gibbens, worked for the outfit as a cowboy. "He told me that he lived in that adobe for weeks at a time while he had the company's horse herd up the canyon grazing." Betty said the 3C had that particular place in the canyon because it was the only permanent (year-round) water hole nearby. "Everything else would dry up or not produce enough to support livestock," she said.

That gives us a time frame for the construction of the adobe at least. If it was built by CCC employees, then it would have been between 1885 and 1912 when the 3C sold its holdings, including 47 parcels of land for a total of 3500 acres, and ceased to exist.

Where the 3C ended, other cattle companies began.

That the property was valued as a watering hole is further sup-

ported by the story of Annie Pounds, who also lived in the little adobe house at one time with her children. Richard Shaw remembers seeing Mrs. Pounds when he visited the canyon in 1916. Annie kept the stock tank, still present on the property, full of water by the use of a burro-powered pump identical to the one in the photograph of the NY Ranch.

Annie was a younger sister of Tex Adams who had obtained the Texas Canyon Ranch. She'd come West with her mother and helped her establish a 160-acre homestead on land that today is part of the Amerind Foundation. Annie married nearby homesteader George Mulkey and the couple had five children. After Mulkey was killed in a shoot-out, Annie married Fred Pounds and moved with him to Colorado. She returned to Cochise County not long after that and established a homestead claim of her own located in the northeast 1/4 of Sect. 18 Township 17 South Range 23 East at the mouth of the canyon. While at the adobe, she also proved up her claim, and received a patent in February 1918 under the name Annie Busenbark.

From the hands of the CCC, the adobe's land went to H.S. Boise, Carroll W. Gates, Egbert J. Gates and W.D. Johnson who composed another cattle company. Seven years later, the firm sold to sole owner Henry G. Boise 37 parcels of land totaling more than 6,600 acres.

When Boise began selling land, John and Flora Rockfellow stepped up to buy two small pieces from him in 1920: one was the 40-acre canyon property and the other was a 160-acre parcel in Sect. 18 located 5 miles due south of Dragoon on the west side of the Dragoon mountains. The Rockfellows sold both parcels to L.B. Blanton, another cattleman, in 1927.

Gifford Allaire, who you may remember was a boy in the picture Flora Rockfellow took of Hart's Sutlers Store, bought the adobe property in 1931 and kept it until 1952 when his estate sold it to John and Mary Magoffin.

Helen and Charlie Prude purchased the property in 1966 from the Magoffins and bought other land in a direction stretching out toward the Sulphur Spring Valley from their headquarters called "Half

Moon Ranch.” Helen said the ranch was composed of about 14 sections at one time, but when she and Charlie retired they sold the rest of it retaining only the 40-acre parcel where their house, and the CCC adobe, still sit.

The adobe building, although roofless and leaning when the Prudes obtained the property, was made sturdy and useful again when the couple installed support beams at the top of the walls and re-roofed the building. They also reinstalled windows and doors, and used it as a bunkhouse for seasonal ranch workers.

Helen, who was also interested in the history of the canyon, spoke many times to Richard Shaw when he was in the area and was in correspondence with one of John Rockfellow’s daughters, Julia Waite. After retiring from the daily operations of running a ranch with her husband, Helen donated her time to staff a visitors center housed in the now-closed F.S. Administrative Site – also known as the Warren home.

Charlie passed away Oct. 31, 1991. He was inducted into the Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame in a 1992 posthumous award. Although Helen remained on the ranch for several years after Charlie’s death, she now lives in Tucson.

Those passing through

Homesteaders in the canyon are easily identified through their claim entries filed with the U.S. Forest Service. But others who were here left without having their temporary ownership or use of the land documented, are much harder to get a picture of. Sometimes people settled on a piece of property and made some improvements and their plans were interrupted or they simply moved away – hopefully to a better prospect. Occasionally, stories of their adventures were passed down through oral histories and other times their presence was noted in the local newspapers – neither product is capable of producing a complete picture of them but it is often better than nothing at all when the goal is to paint a picture of a place.

In the case of Stewart’s Castle, no patented claim exists proving David Stewart built a home in the Dragoons. What we do have is an account of Stewart that was recorded in Tombstone.

Stewart was a Scotch mining man living in Tombstone in 1883 who expected to make a living by raising stock. He built a house about one mile east of Cochise Stronghold Ranger Station (not the present-day administrative site). Although he never lived there, Stewart reportedly had a caretaker on the place.

The house was raided and looted, allegedly by Apaches, and one time a sheep was killed and barbecued in front of the house. When it stood, the house’s existence was documented by Flora Rockfellow, John’s wife, who photographed it in 1891. By 1939, only the home’s foundation remained.

An examination of General Land Office records shows that the area about where Stewart’s Castle would have been was patented by Richard Warren on Oct. 10, 1910. But, as we know from the Walns homestead entry, prior residents of the area who simply left the land unattended or unoccupied could be replaced by newcomers. Those who obtained a simple Special Use Permit from the Forest Service usually did so in order to extract a natural resource from the forest – most commonly, wood.

Woodcutters Arrested

One of the primary missions of the U.S. Forest Service when it was created in 1905, was the protection of watersheds. The word watershed is almost a misnomer. Shedding water is exactly what you don’t want the ground to do. Under normal vegetative conditions, that include grass, shrubs and trees, water soaks into the ground without eroding away the soil. But at the time forests throughout the country were being denuded (by private and commercial interests alike) without regard to the standard rule for a healthy ecosystem.

The Dragoon and surrounding mountain ranges were no exception. In fact these mountains held the added attraction of being in close proximity to some rather extensive mining operations which always needed fuel.

John Rockfellow makes particular note of the large size of the trees

in the Stronghold when he first arrived in 1883. In his *Log*, Rockfellow says that it was sometimes 30 feet to the first branch on the tree.

Zan L. Tidball, U.S. Marshall for Arizona District from 1882 to 1885, found timber trespass to be a particularly irksome problem. Former U.S. Marshalls in the district had found enforcing the law against cutting timber on public lands met with hard resistance. And the Tucson firm that contracted to provide crossties for the Southern Pacific Railroad filed suit after one marshall confiscated some ties he alleged were illegally cut. That case was still unheard in the courts when Tidball arrived.

But in 1884, one of Tidball's deputies arrested 16 woodcutters in the Dragoon mountains which set off an unprecedented public outcry. The next month the deputy returned to the Dragoons and arrested 10 more suspected woodcutters. But when the case was heard, the district court in Tombstone failed to convict any of the men arrested. Tidball had faced off with some of the most powerful men in the territory, those who represented the timber interests, over trees harvested in the Dragoons. But he did not win a decisive victory.

Rockfellow says in later years the woodcutters still came. He notes, "When the mill at Pearce was first put in operation, wood was used under the boilers and wood contractors had Mexican choppers at work all along the east slope of the Dragoon Mountains."

"These woodchoppers were mostly job-hunters from across the border, but now and then there was one who made a residence and possibly supported a family in Arizona."

When the Dragoons came under U.S. Forest Service administration in 1907, a new system of extracting timber was introduced. Forest Rangers were charged with the duty of issuing Special Use Permits and regulating the overall amount of timber removed from the reserves. This ended up being one of Ranger Neil Erickson's chief duties, he writes in his journals.

By late 1908, some progress had been made in stemming the tide of timber flowing from the mountain havens, according to *Conser-*

vation Vol. 14 No. 9. The writer for 'News and Notes' says "Since the establishment of the National Forest, the cutting of wood has been carefully supervised, and only dead and mature trees, the removal of which would not injure the watershed, have been cut."

"Careful cutting of this kind has been allowed in the areas which have heretofore been closed to use, and as a result, the price of wood has actually been reduced in the small towns For instance, in Pearce, an important mining town. ... the price of wood previous to the creation of the National Forest was \$8 per cord. It is now only \$6...."

In addition to the woodchoppers, another whole segment of society could be found roaming around in and through Cochise's Stronghold – the prospectors.

Prospecting the Dragoons

Pre-turn-of-the-century and well into the 1900s, Arizona was full of entrepreneurs – also known as prospectors – who continued to search pocket after pocket and shelf after shelf in the Dragoons and surrounding mountain ranges. The Dragoons seemed particularly attractive probably because of its location between two large, successful mining areas, one in Tombstone and one in Pearce. There are countless stories of men who saw the country in company with their trusty burro and settled down for awhile, usually continuing to develop mine interests on the side. John Rockfellow and his friends Walter Servoss and Frank Allaire all continued their interests in prospecting, partnering in development of mines, and grubstaking prospectors who wandered and searched for the lode.

Some of the best documented experiences of prospecting comes from the *Private Journal of George Whitwell Parsons Vol. II*. This book covers June 1882 through March 1887, when Parsons headquartered out of Tombstone and worked mining interests – his own and others – in southern Arizona and Mexico. He frequently mentions the Dragoons commenting on the quality of the prospects. For example, he writes:

Dec. 23, 1883: "...went this a.m. with Col. Jones S. Clark, Colonel Fred Stanford Jr., Mrs. Taylor and Maurice to Cochise Pass,

Dragoons, to see a promising mining property there called the Flora Culver, or something like that. ...Looks like a good thing with that property," and

Dec. 26, 1883: "Trying to work up the Dragoon Mine racket. Something there, I think. The heavy indications do not go for nothing. Went out to Gentile Belle mine today and measured ground. Big assessment work done there."

The nearest mines to the Cochise Stronghold Canyon that were patented were those two mentioned previously in this publication. But some homesteaders also continued to dig around looking for a good possibility, like Thomas Allaire. Although he was considered a homesteader and engaged in the cattle industry, Allaire had three mineral entries entered in 1910. The entries were located in Sects. 11, 13 and 14 in Township 17 South Range 23 East. They were patented in 1913.

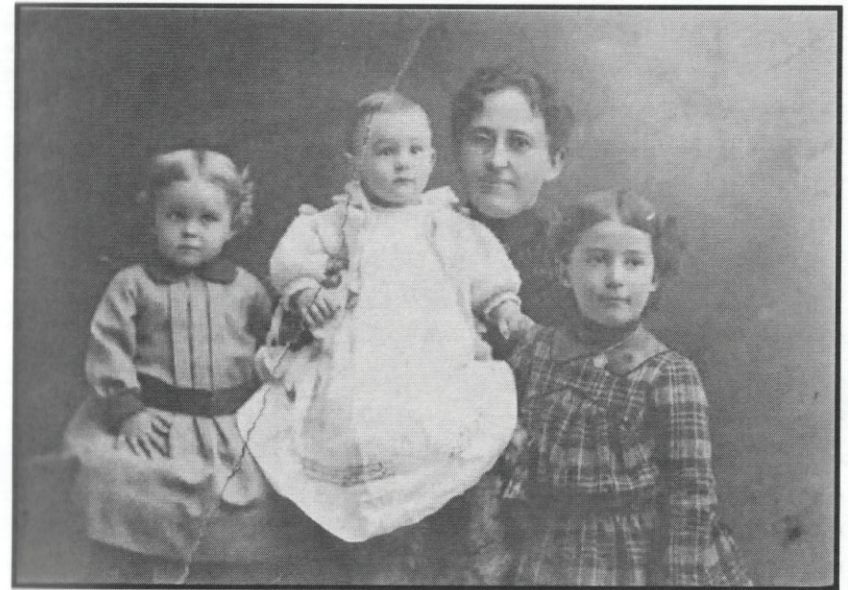
Parsons doesn't just mention mining activities and locations. His journals are an amazing rendition of the people he meets throughout the area and what they are involved in. Sometimes, when reading Parsons journal, you get the feeling that it was wall-to-wall people out here in the vast, untamed West.

The Rockfellows Remain

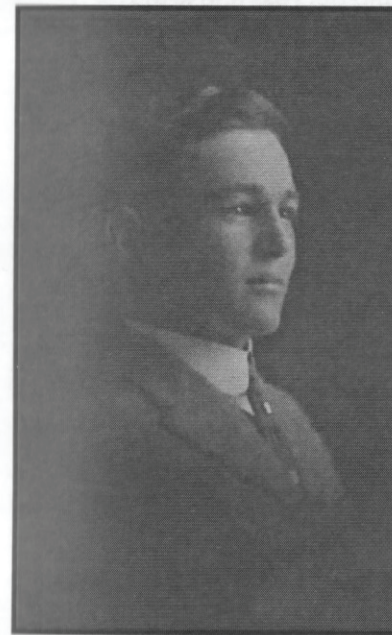
John Rockfellow's presence in the canyon began in 1883 with the use of pre-emption, or Squatter's Rights, and he continued to buy and sell parcels both in and out of the canyon for many years.

In 1883, he, Walter Servoss and Andrew Spencer began the Esperanza Ranch, which later became known as the NY Ranch. At Spencer's death a few months later, Joe Phy became the new 1/3-interest partner. Joe Phy sold his 1/3 interest to Pete Kitchen bringing Rockfellow and Servoss's old mining friend back into business with them.

In the Cochise County Recorder's office, the transaction from Joseph Phy to Peter Kitchen is documented. The indenture, made Aug. 28, 1885, conveys to Kitchen for the sum of \$1,200, "...to wit, that certain tract of land known as the Esperanza Ranch and



Flora Rockfellow holds baby Phillip. To her right is Henrietta and to her left is Julia. Photo courtesy Lisa Bunker.



Phil Rockfellow. Photo courtesy Lisa Bunker

that certain tract of land or claims immediately adjoining said Esperanza Ranch on the south-east containing one hundred and sixty acres of land more or less: also that certain tract of land known as Cochise's Stronghold.

Nothing more specific about the 'land known as Cochise's Stronghold,' is noted. All of the interested parties apparently knew where the boundaries of the Stronghold property were.

The next transactions recorded show that on Oct. 8, 1888 Pete Kitchen quitclaimed his 1/3 interest in the Esperanza operation to Howard F. Herring and

that the same interest was reconveyed to Pete Kitchen on Feb. 23, 1889 by Howard's trustee, William Herring. The aberration in Esperanza ownership lasted just over four months, and remains unexplained. But on the very same day, Feb. 23, 1889, Kitchen sells his 1/3 interest in all of the property the partners own to Rockfellow and Servoss for the sum of \$2,000. This indenture is the first document to show the name Hart Ranch.

"...all right title and interest of the party of the first part of in and to the possessory claim situated in Cochise Canon on East slope of Dragoon mountains and known as the Hart Ranch: Also the Ranch known as the Esperanza Ranch, situated about four miles west of Sulphur Spring in Sulphur Spring Valley on the Eastern Slope of Dragoon mountains, Also all right title and interest of in and to all stock cattle and horses of every description bearing the brand known as the NY brand...."

This document lends a bit more credibility to the existence of Hart's sutler's store. The Hart Ranch belonged to Charles Hart who was well known to Rockfellow and Servoss and is the man credited with operating a store for soldiers somewhere in the canyon. Although it is unknown exactly where the store was located (Charlotte Shaw says it was near the home Warren later built), a 1902 General Land Office map shows us that the C. Hart Ranch was in Sect. 19 of Range 24 East which borders Sect. 24 of Range 23 East. It was also very near the confluence of three old roads, one of which was the main road into the Stronghold at the time.

With the transfer of Kitchen's interest in the ranch property, Rockfellow and Servoss become the only two remaining in the partnership. In 1908 two significant events occur: Walter Servoss passes away and the NY Ranch is sold. Servoss, who had himself homesteaded some property in the valley next to the railroad and constructed a cattle loading station there, is remembered by both a place on the map called "Servoss Station" and his burial in the Rockfellow family plot in Sunset Cemetery in Willcox.

Despite Rockfellow's ownership of several parcels of ground both in and out of the canyon, he is most remembered for the Stronghold Ranch property that as yet has been only briefly mentioned.



Flora and John Rockfellow in front of their home at Stronghold Ranch, a 40-acre parcel immediately south of today's Half Moon Ranch. The building was razed in the 1970s.

Photo courtesy Lisa Bunker.



Flora and John's children and grandchildren visited them at the Stronghold Ranch. These two unnamed buckaroos are in front of a combination barn and shed at the ranch.

Photo courtesy Lisa Bunker.

Aside from his interest in the Esperanza Ranch properties, and separate from other properties he bought and sold to further the ranching interests of his son, Rockfellow kept one 40-acre parcel of land for his own particular interest. This piece, he received a patent for on March 7, 1911 and he retained an ownership interest in it until his death in 1947. Flora had passed away 10 years earlier.

Parcel No. 2 in Sect. 24 was where John built an adobe cabin prior to 1916 when Richard Shaw and his mother, Charlotte, visited the canyon for the first time. Richard recalls that he and his mother stayed in this cabin in 1916. When they returned four years later in 1920 and Charlotte purchased the Warren homestead and 80 acres, the Rockfellow moved out of the Warren house and into the cabin situated close to the main road coming into the canyon. Richard recalls that Rockfellow immediately employed men to add four adobe rooms to the cabin, and before long the family had a suitably-sized home again. It was at this home that Rockfellow welcomed his children and grandchildren, where he penned the biographical vignettes in *Log of an Arizona Trail Blazer*, and where he would continue to vacation in the summer until just before his death.

The property passed to his heirs and was reconveyed to the U.S. Forest Service on Sept. 27, 1966. Concerns about the sturdiness of the adobe structure, prompted U.S. Forest Service officials to demolish the adobe home in the early 1970s. No structures remain standing there today, although some foundation remnants can be located during a thorough search among the tall dry grass and shrubs.

The Shillings Build a Rock House

Probably the most modern of the earliest homes built in the canyon, is Lee and Bea Shilling's rock house constructed in 1933-34. Lee, born William Lee, and Bea, named Ethel Beatrice, went by their middle names most of their adult lives.

Lee Shilling's father, James M. Shilling, came to Texas Canyon in Arizona in 1899 from the Burkett area of Texas where they were cattle ranchers. After selling the ranch in Texas, the family shipped their cattle by railroad to their new home in Texas Canyon, where they built a homestead near the home of another branch of the family, the Adamses.

Bea is one of the younger children of Hamilton and Ila May Kegans who bought the Buckley's 90-acre property in the canyon. Lee and Bea were married in 1923, but didn't return to the canyon to live full time until several years after their marriage.

According to a household journal Bea kept, the couple bought uncleared land from John Rockfellow in 1933. The 14 acres they originally purchased, cost \$50.

Some of the description we have today for the building of the canyon house comes from present-day Cochise resident Jim Shilling who was an observant youngster on scene when some of the first



Lee and Bea Shilling, pictured here on their wedding day, bought uncleared land from John Rockfellow to build a house in the canyon. They lived there until 1969. Photo courtesy Jim Shilling.

work on the house was completed. Jim shared his recollections in a 1998 interview.

"He cleared the land of oak trees and giant oak tree stumps for an orchard. The most amazing thing to me was the digging out of the big, old stumps. I just wish I could have been here to see this country before that happened (the trees were cut) because there were stumps 4 feet in diameter and 3 feet high. There were truck-loads of huge old stumps that were rooted out with dynamite," Jim said.

The meadow directly north of the house had apple, peach and pear trees in about a 5-acre orchard.

"When they first bought the place they built a long lumber building, clapboard type and in the back end of it was kind of a little workshop," Jim recalled. "He built it with the intention of making it his garage after finishing the rock house. But they lived in it until they got the first four rooms built of the rock house."

The foundation of Lee's house is made of boulders so large it took two men to roll them onto a flatbed trailer, Jim said. Lee put them in a ditch, watered them down and constructed the rest of the rock walls on top of the boulders using concrete. In the first addition to the original four-room home, Jim said Lee constructed a bathroom which featured a homemade tub made of cement and smoothed out.

Many of Lee's construction projects can still be seen at the house and grounds: The cement boxes for Bea's gardens, a luxury-size outdoor grill and cement encased ice box in addition to a cement shed and cool house where food items were kept from spoiling all stand today as mute testimony to Lee and Bea's constant activity during the years they lived in the canyon.

Some of the couple's milestones are marked in Bea's journal, including the 1956 event when they obtained a television and in 1958 when they had electricity wired in. In 1963, they got a telephone. Bea also managed the purchase of orchard materials noting in the ledger that in January 1966 she received shipment of Elberta Queen and Hale peach saplings. Lee's retirement from the Forest Service took place on Dec. 1, 1965, she notes, and the canyon had 10 days of snow in 1967 "right through Christmas.



Bea Shilling in an undated photo. Photo courtesy Elva Lane.

Although Lee tried to make the little acreage pay enough in a commercial way to support the couple, he sometimes sought employment in mining. Back in the canyon, Lee worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a caretaker for the campground that was built there in the 1960s. And, in an effort that was probably before its time, he bought an additional 4 acres and installed a recreational vehicle park that featured spaces for 6 units. He ran water and electricity to each slot. How many customers the couple had is unknown.

Many of the Shilling family members have fond memories of Lee and Bea. "Uncle Lee loved the kids. He hiked with them and had a big peach orchard," Jim recalled. Bea is remembered for her avid gardening activities.

Bea's journal notes that the couple's home place was sold to the U.S. Forest Service on May 23, 1968. They received payment a year later. When the Shillings sold the property to the U.S. Forest Service in February 1969, improvements listed were the rock house, storage building and garage, machine shed and workshop, trailer court, well, fences and approximately 2-acre peach orchard.

Bea's last journal entry is her note that she and Lee flew to California Nov. 14, 1969.

Rangers in the Canyon

U.S. Forest Service officials began administering the Dragoon mountains as Dragoon National Forest, when it was created by proclamation May 25, 1907. A little over a year later, the Dragoon NF was combined with Santa Catalina and Santa Rita NFs to make the Coronado National Forest on July 2, 1908.

The Dragoon Forest was transferred from Coronado to Chiricahua National Forest where it remained until June 1917 when the Chiricahua and Coronado National Forests were combined. Today it remains within the jurisdiction of the Coronado.

The Forest Homestead Act of June 11, 1906 opened national forest lands to agricultural settlement. Since, by 1906, Arizona had been and was still experiencing settlement by pre-emption in addition to homestead claims, the newly organized forest administrators needed to pay attention to those people who had already settled in what became forest lands. Many of them had settled under the Homestead Act of 1862 and there was some dispute as to whether either of the homestead acts applied if the land claimed was in a Territory instead of a State.

There were other ways to lay claim to land, too. One way was through Mineral Entries. Under the General Mining Law of 1872, mineral lands were identified as a distinct class of public lands subject to exploration, occupation and purchase under certain conditions.

The United States granted Military Warrants as a reward for military service from 1788 to 1855 and many veterans used them. And then, if you had money, you could also just buy the land from the U.S. Government.

Of the two most common, homestead and mineral entries, Dragoon National Forest administrators had a share. John Warren's homestead claim predated creation of the national forest by several years. Mr. Buckley's claim was dated the same year as the creation of the forest and a large portion of his original claim was for land unsuitable for agriculture. Two mineral entries for placer claims also

fell within the new forest's boundaries.

We saw by documentation on Warren's homestead claim that Birtsal Jones was one of the Forest Service's first rangers to make contact with canyon residents. Another prominent figure from the agency was Ranger Neil Erickson who had joined the Chiricahua National Forest in 1903. When the Dragoons were added to his jurisdiction in 1908, Ranger Erickson made it a point to reacquaint himself with the mountain range.

Neil Erickson on duty

Neil Erickson was born in central Sweden on April 22, 1859. When Neil was very young, his father came to America and went to work for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He intended to send for his family to join him, but was killed by Indians.

Neil became the man of the family, working to support his mother and sister. A few years later, Neil came to America, first working in a sugar factory. One day he passed by a recruiting office so we went in and signed up for the U.S. Army. He was sent to Fort Bliss, New Mexico to join the 4th Cavalry where he met Emma Peterson, also from Sweden who was a nanny to an officer's children.

Neil had some tremendous adventures as a cavalryman, but as Richard Shaw recalls he wasn't talkative about the years he was an 'Indian Fighter.'

He and Emma were married after Neil had served his duty for 5 years. They homesteaded in Bonita Canyon in the Chiricahua Mountains and raised two daughters and a son. The family's homestead ranch was also Neil's Ranger Headquarters. During his first 14 years with the Forest Service, Neil was assigned to the Chiricahuas, 1903 to 1917.

By virtue of his journal entries (Neil was a meticulous record keeper) we know that Neil was operating in the Dragoons as early as February 1916. On Feb. 14 that year he left Pearce at 8 a.m. riding to Busenbarks ranch where he "got his application" and rode into Grapevine Canyon to E.H. Matney's Ranch "to examine improvements on same." He rode to Costello's Ranch where he noted that the application was made but not mailed. He stopped at

the ranger station in the canyon that evening and noted in his journal "Grazing 9-H." That was Neil's shorthand for the work classification and number of hours he performed that function. Even on days when he wasn't on duty, Neil often made note of his activities such as on May 7, 1916 when he wrote "Home in the forenoon; planted garden."

Richard Shaw recalls that the Cochise Ranger Station was in existence when he first visited the canyon in 1916. And a 1917 F.S. map shows the "Dragoon Guard Station" in the Stronghold Canyon. It's possible that since Neil was known to be an excellent carpenter and built several homes in Bisbee, that he may have constructed the ranger residence in the canyon. He completed several construction projects for the agency in the Chiricahuas.

Neil's inspection of the Walns' homestead claim is also noted in his journal as are the numerous Free Use permits he issued, and timber sales he oversaw. One of Neil's most interesting entries was a multi-day search for Antonio Martinez who was reportedly cutting wood in the Dragoons. After many disappointing leads Neil "tied the team and started up the mountain side on foot to Black Diamond Spring. Here I found him alone and badly crippled with rheumatism, barely able to move about. He hobbled on down the mt. to my wagon and I gave him what I had with me to eat," Neil writes.

Neil's jurisdictional boundaries included both the Dragoons and the Chiricahuas. According to his journal, he would alternate which mountain range he worked consolidating the work in each trip so that he made as many contacts with ranchers, settlers, special use permittees and woodcutters as possible.

In October 1916, Neil had special duties to perform in preparation of the Ranger's Meeting. On Oct. 21st he left his home Bonita Canyon headed for Pearce to pick up supplies and then on to the Cochise Ranger Station. Sunday he arrived at the station with a load of supplies. The rest of the day was spent in knocking together rough furniture to accommodate the incoming rangers. On Monday he cleaned up and "constituted myself a reception committee of one." Rangers began arriving soon after.

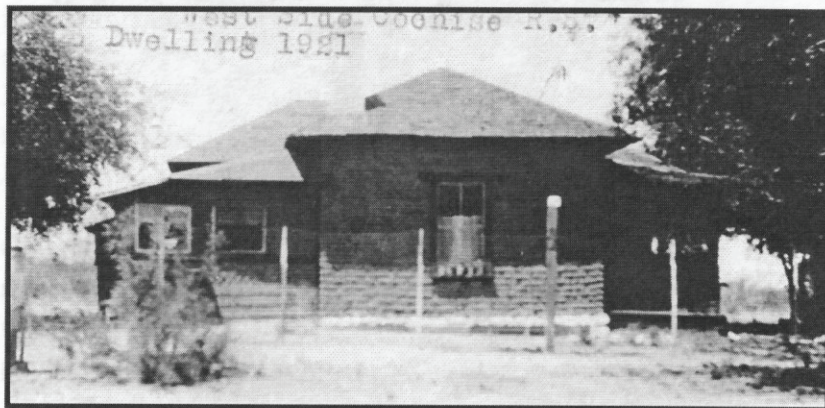
The five-day meeting covered many of the rangers' daily concerns.



Rangers meet at the Stronghold in 1916. Photo courtesy National Park Service, Western Archeological and Cons. Center.



**Cochise Ranger Station in an undated photo.
Photo courtesy Coronado National Forest.**



**The residence at Cochise Ranger Station as it appeared in
1921. Photo courtesy Coronado National Forest.**

Some of the topics they covered were protection, small-wood sales, green-wood sales, timber sales, Free-Use, trail construction, trail posting, telephone instruction, grazing reconnaissance, stock growers associations, salting of stock, values of calf tallies and steer sales, water development, hog grazing, grazing trespass and game protection. The rangers adjourned Oct. 28 and parted soon after



**Tom, Weatherrod, Dandy and Neil Erickson are at Barfoot
Park in the Chiricahua mountains in this undated photo. Photo
courtesy National Park Service, Western Archeological and
Conservation Center.**

bound for their respective districts.

Neil and Emma must have lived at the Cochise Ranger Station from time to time during Neil's assignment there which lasted until April 1921, although they never relinquished ownership of their Bonita Canyon homestead. Richard Shaw recalled Neil and his wife in his memoirs and made some note of the presence of other rangers who were assigned through the years. Taking over for Neil was John A. Freiborn who administered the Dragoons from April 1921 until December of that year.

Edwin G. Mettler was the ranger assigned from Jan. 1, 1922 until December 1931. After that administration for the Dragoons fell into another ranger district. Other rangers may have used the residence there, but the house was quickly rented out.

Betty Gibbens Allaire said she was in the 8th grade (in 1939 or '40) when her family lived at the ranger station. "It was still a ranger station but the Forest Service didn't have anyone in there," Betty recalled in a 2001 interview. She said a man and his wife lived in the house before their family moved in.

The man and his wife Betty mentions were probably Sherman and Louise Baker. Sherman, a native of Virginia the son of a naval officer, courted Louise when he was back East vacationing with his family. "When he did his courting, he polished off two jobs simultaneously. He wooed me effectively and at the same time sold me Arizona," Louise writes of their meeting in one of her books *Out on a Limb*.

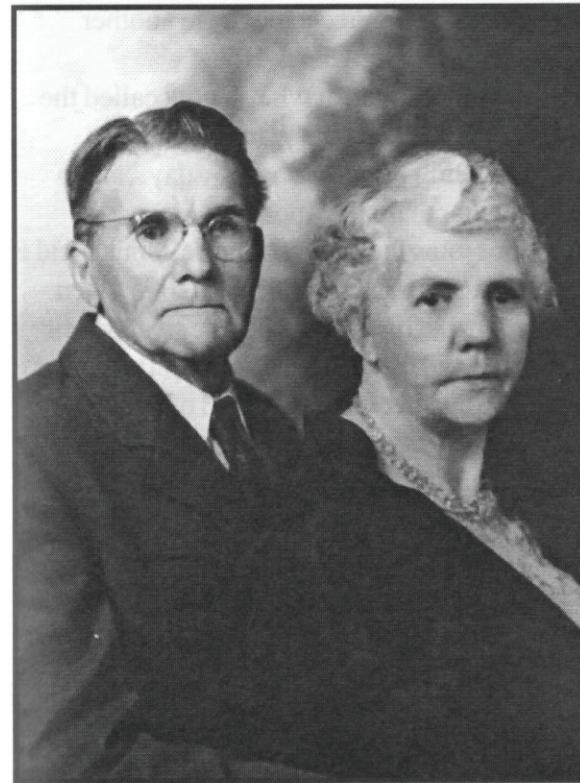
"He snared me in both traps. I not only was anxious to marry him, I was dying to be a Pioneer Woman in Arizona.... We lived in an adobe house, a former ranger station in the Dragoon Mountains, long abandoned by the Forest Service. We had 80 acres of land, two horses who came galloping up when we rang a dinner bell, and a cow named Pearl.... We also had twelve hens named for flowers.... When I got over a slight nervous breakdown caused by finding a rattlesnake on my front doorstep one day and discovering a mountain lion on my roof one night, I quite liked it," Louise wrote.

Sherman and Louise moved to California and lived there during the years of WWII while Sherman spent some time in the U.S. Army. Betty Gibbens Allaire graduated from the 8th grade and went on to other achievements, eventually marrying Giff Allaire's (the boy in the tree) son, Tom Allaire. As a couple they owned a ranch on the road that leads out to the AEPCO Wildlife Viewing Area on Highway 191. After selling the ranch, the Allaires moved to New Mexico.

Nothing remains today of the adobe house and clapboard barn and garage that once stood at the Cochise Ranger Station site other than a few foundational remnants and scattered pieces of broken china. It's unknown exactly when the buildings were removed, but Richard Shaw recalls that this occurred sometime during the 1950s.

The Next Ranger Station

The Forest Service, concerned about the subdivision and development of the private parcels, began to acquire them in the 1960s hoping to preserve the area for recreation developments. The current campground was constructed in 1961 and later developed with the addition of paved designated camping sites and other



Neil and Emma Erickson in an undated photo. Neil worked for the Forest Service for 24 years before retiring. His last assignment was in the northern part of Arizona at Walnut Creek. Photo courtesy National Park Service, Western Archeological and Conservation Center.

improvements.

Under the administration of the Willcox District, the Dragoons did not have a ranger in residence. Several staff members who worked in the district's recreation function were responsible for caring for the Forest Service recreation site there and checking in on the agency's newly acquired properties after the Warren homestead and the Shilling house were purchased in 1969. In the 1970s, forest staff who considered some of the buildings unsafe, authorized their removal. It was during this time that the Army Depot, identified by Rockfellow, and his own adobe home were razed.

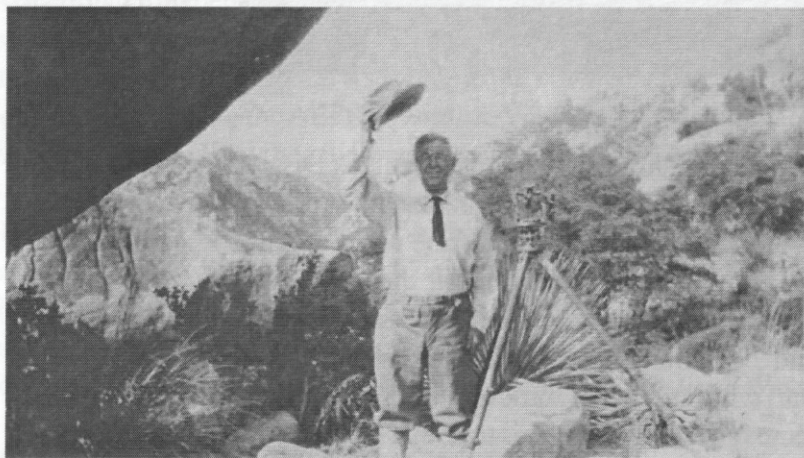
The Warren home site remained vacant for several years before a Forest Service employee moved in. Bob Steele was the first ranger in residence in the canyon for many years. His primary duties included caring for the developed campground at the end of the canyon, oversight for the 53,000-acre Dragoon mountains parcel

and agency compliance issues. When Steele moved to another position in the forest, his successor was Chuck Holt.

Chuck took up residence in the canyon at what is now called the Cochise Stronghold Administrative Site (the Warren home) in October 1994. He missed meeting Richard Shaw by days, since Richard had passed away earlier that same month.

And that's where this author joins the canyon picture. Chuck and I married in 1997 and lived at the admin site until May 2005 when the facility was closed. During that time, many people shared their memories and photos with me and this publication is a reflection of all the time we spent piecing together what we could of the people who have lived in the canyon. So this story is offered as just a beginning. There are many holes to fill and some of the holes I bet you could fill in. So, if you feel inclined, please write to the Cochise County Historical Society at the address listed in the back of this book. The editorial board loves to get letters.

jth



John Rockfellow with survey equipment in the Stronghold.
Photo courtesy Lisa Bunker.

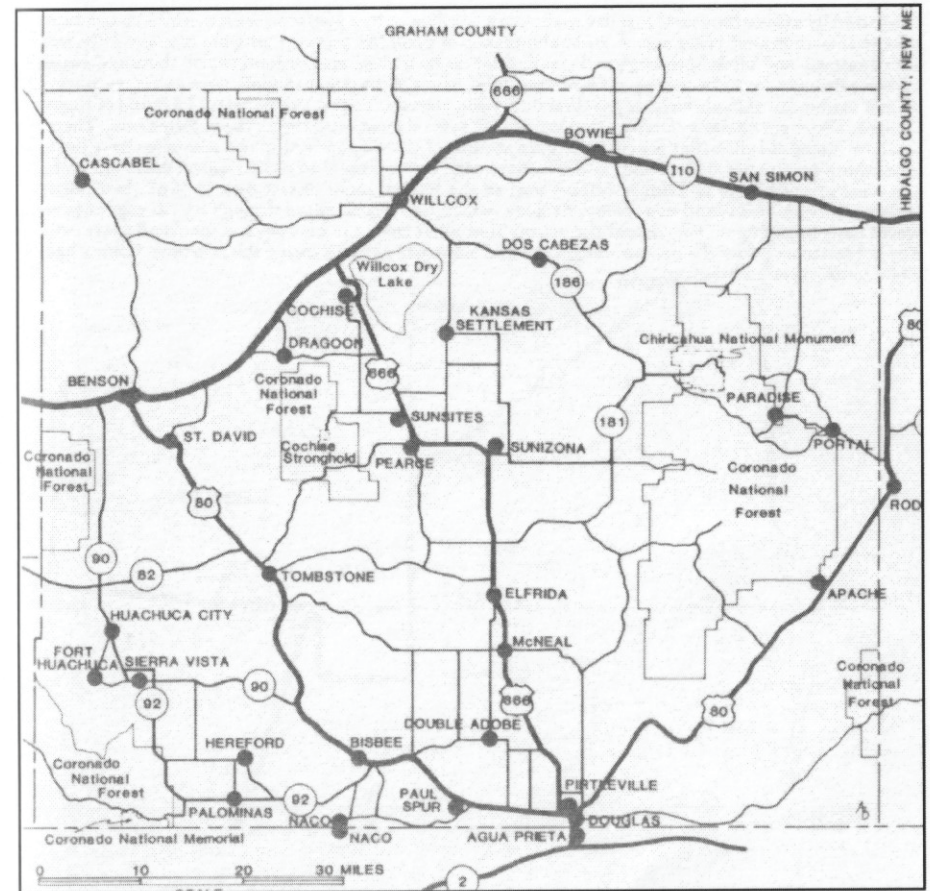
Cochise County, Arizona

Cochise County Historical Society
Membership Information

Individual/family	\$30
Business	\$25
Lifetime	\$500

Mail to:
P. O. Box 818
Douglas, AZ 85608

Dues are paid effective in
January of each year and
include one copy of each
Journal published.



Cochise County, Arizona

Cochise County Historical Society Membership Information

Individual/family	\$20
Business	\$25
Lifetime	\$500

Mail to:
P. O. Box 818
Douglas, AZ 85608

Dues are paid effective in
January of each year and
include one copy of each
Journal published.