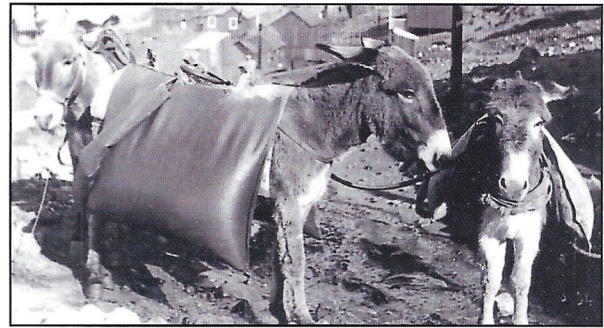




Milk Delivery in Clifton



Hauling Water

# CHRONICLES

## GREENLEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### The Morenci Mine Historical Preservation Project - Phase I

The story of mining at Clifton and Morenci is full of unique characters, from early Jewish-American investors to pioneering mining experts to Hispanic and Italian labor activists, all woven into the diverse historical tapestry of mining in Arizona and the West. In order to preserve the valuable sources of Clifton-Morenci history, Freeport-McMoRan, Inc. (Freeport) established the Morenci Mine Historical Preservation Project to ensure that significant artifacts, photographs, archival materials, and oral histories are properly preserved, cataloged, and archived for posterity. Freeport hired WestLand Resources, Inc. (WestLand) to carry out the preservation project and help the company honor the mining past of Clifton and Morenci.

WestLand identified a collection of 1,614 photographs from over 11,000 historical images (1,200 from Freeport and 11,000 from the Lunt family) that were relevant to the selected themes of community, daily life, industry, and transportation.



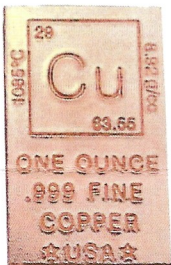
Phase I was designed to capture the knowledge and experiences of **Donald J. Lunt**, a lifelong Greenlee County resident and avocational historian. Mr. Lunt was interviewed about each of the 1,614 images from July to November 2018 at his residence in Clifton by WestLand historian **Stephanie Brown**, with assistance from WestLand historian **Avi Buckles**. The completed project produced an Excel spreadsheet containing detailed historical information about each image: source of the photograph, location, subject, date it was taken, and any additional relevant notes. Mr. Lunt's voice recordings and corresponding transcripts are also included in the spreadsheet. In addition to the spreadsheet, an interactive map was developed by the WestLand team to provide a frame of reference for the locations of the photographs in the collection.



On Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at a luncheon attended by representatives from FMI and the Greenlee County Historical Society, the completed Phase I Project was presented to the Museum. The Project is now available to the public for viewing and research purposes on a dedicated computer in the Museum.

Brown, Stephanie, and Avi Buckles. WestLand Resources, Inc., Tucson, AZ, 2019, pp. 1–2, *The Morenci Mine Historical Preservation Project - Phase 1*.

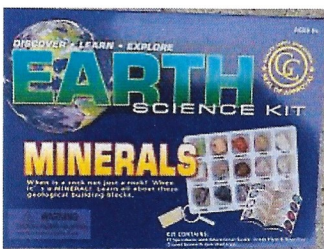
### Gift Shop News



In addition to the many children's and local interest books, we now have a greater selection of gift items and interesting finds.

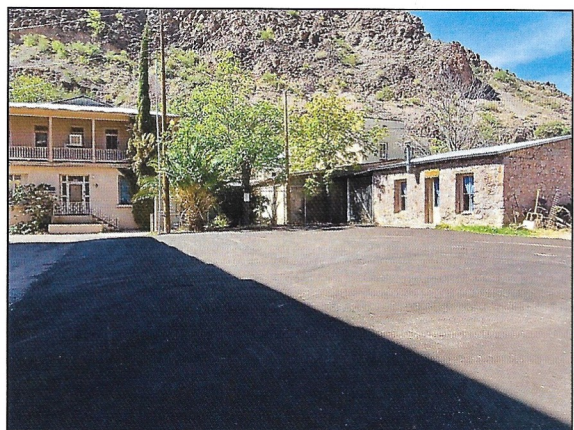
**New arrivals!** Individual boxes of Fool's Gold (pyrite) and Peacock Chalcopyrite; Crystal and Mineral Earth Science Kits; Solid One Ounce Copper Ingot Bars; Rose Quartz Crystal Candle Holders; Rainbow Agate Wind Chimes

**Sale items!** Decorative gourd ornaments and embroidered hand towels.



### New Parking Lot

The parking lot adjacent to the Museum and Rock House has been resurfaced with asphalt! Our sincerest thanks to **Bobby Pollock** and FMI for their vital role in making it a reality.



View our Gift Shop items on the web:  
[greenleehistory.org/giftshop](http://greenleehistory.org/giftshop)

## Ancestry by Richard Velasquez

### Petra Ramirez, my great-great grandmother

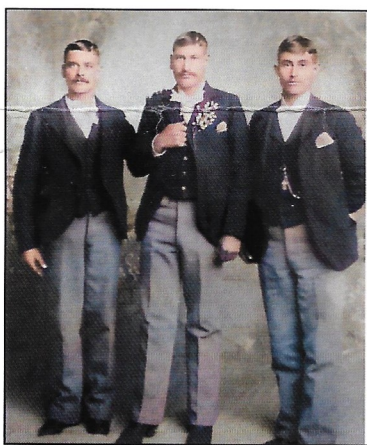
This story was told to me when I was 10 years old. As a young girl it was said that Geronimo would pass by her cabin in Metcalf and that she saw him many times. My great-great grandmother Petra married **Venzelato Sierra** at the Metcalf depot in November of 1890. Venzelato arrived in Metcalf around 1878. By 1887 he would be known as **Gabriel Montez**. In July of 1902, Petra was murdered at her cabin by **Tomas Rocha** early on a Saturday morning as she was making breakfast for her daughters. The neighbors raised \$60 to help for funeral costs. Rocha was sentenced to 30 years at Yuma Territorial prison for second degree murder. Gabriel died in 1926 and was buried in Metcalf. Petra and Gabriel had three children together: a son **Geronimo Sierra**, and two daughters; my great grandmother **Eugenia**, and **Maria** who married **Simon Hinojos** in Clifton.

This is the only known photo of Petra.



I was baptized at the Sacred Heart Church in 1955 most of my life I thought it was odd since I was born and raised in Phoenix. But summers I would go to Clifton with my great-grandmother Eugenia to visit her sister **Maria Montez De Hinojos** and her family, my cousins the Franco's . My godparents were **Ernest Franco** and his mother **Francis (Panchita) Franco**.

My father's mother was **Delia Delgado Guerrero**, she too was born in Metcalf in 1910. She was the daughter of **Jose Angel Guerrero** and **Herculana Delgado**. **Carmen Guerrero Mitchell** was Jose Angel Guerrero's sister. She was married to **William Waters** and they had one daughter, **Guadalupe Waters** who would marry **Morris Manheimer** and then marry **Alex Arnett** after both of them lost their spouses. Alex Arnett was a lawman in Metcalf. Carmen Guerrero would marry **LH Mitchell** after William Waters died in 1894. My great aunt was in the boarding house business. My grandfather's father was **Policarpo Coronel Velasquez**, who's Spanish ancestor **Jose Trinidad Romo De Vibar** was one of the first Spanish settlers of Arizona in 1644. He was the grandson of **Diego Romo De Vibar**, the Lt. Governor of the state of Chihuahua. They all came from Rincon de Romos Aguascalientes, Mexico.



Jose Maria Grijalva (center) and his brothers in 1896.

My great grandfather Policarpo was a barber in Metcalf and also played the violin. He married **Eugenia Montez** in September of 1909. My mother's family also has ties to Metcalf. Her father, **Manuel Chavez**

**Solis** was brought to Arizona when he was six months old from Paso de Sotos Jalisco, Mexico. He would work in the mines at 10 years of age as a water boy. He and his older brother Pedro were the sons of **Santiago Soliz (Salas)** and **Marcella Chavez**. My mother's mother, **Maria De Pilar Grijalva**

Jaramillo was born in Tucson in 1892, the daughter of Bruno Lucero Jaramillo and Maria Bonifacia Grijalva and the sister of Jose Maria Grijalva of Solomon. The irony of it all was that neither one of my parents were born in Greenlee County. My mother was born in Coolidge, Arizona, and my father in Phoenix. They met in 1952 while my father was on a hunting trip with his friend who happened to be dating a girl from Coolidge who was my mother's good friend. All these people are now gone as my mother passed away in 2021 and my father in 2002.

Contact Richard Velasquez at [ricovelazquez1955@icloud.com](mailto:ricovelazquez1955@icloud.com)

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*What fascinating stories and pictures do you have about your local ancestry? We'd love to hear from you! Submit them in writing or send to [greenleecountyhs74@gmail.com](mailto:greenleecountyhs74@gmail.com).*

### Why become a member?

Most of our members have ties to Greenlee County in one way or another. The Museum Gift Shop and dues are the Society's primary sources of income. Your continued financial support helps to maintain all things museum related throughout the year: utilities, building maintenance, archive supplies, software licenses, etc. Please remember volunteer manpower runs your museum. Speaking of volunteers, please review the Volunteer Form to find additional opportunities to support the GCHS!

**REMINDER: 2022-23 Memberships are now due payable by check, cash or online at <https://www.greenleehistory.org/donate>**

## GCHS Raffle Basket Ticket Sales begin September 1 \$5 Each try 5 for \$20

- \$100 Gift Cards *each* for Amazon, Gila Outfitters, Walmart, Bashas, VISA
- \$100 worth of scratchers Lottery Tickets
- Children's books, Cookbooks, Earth Science kits, Jewelry, Local Interest books, Copper Wine Glasses

Drawing:  
Saturday, December 3, 3 pm  
at the GCHS Museum

### Great Christmas Gifts!

Tickets available from any Board member or call Vicky Morales: 928-865-2719.

### 2022 Board of Directors

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## GREENLEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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*The Greenlee County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID #86-0311425.*