September 2015

Legacy Project

Cochise County Recorder's Office

"Where the Old West Meets 21st Century Technology"

By Christine Rhodes

Recorder's History

In the Beginning

When Cochise County was carved out of a significant portion of Pima County and officially established on February 1, 1881 by the 11th Territorial Assembly under the leadership of Governor John C. Frémont, nationally known as "The Pathfinder", the Cochise County Recorder's Office began the arduous task of organizing the record-keeping system. Tombstone, the county's largest and most economically promising community, was selected as the county seat.

For a brief period prior to the delivery of the blank books and other materials necessary to create the new county's grantor-grantee recording system, Pima County Recorder Charles Drake continued fulfilling the obligations of accepting, indexing, and copying the contents of the variety of documents, primarily related to property within Cochise County's recently-defined boundaries, for inclusion in the public record.

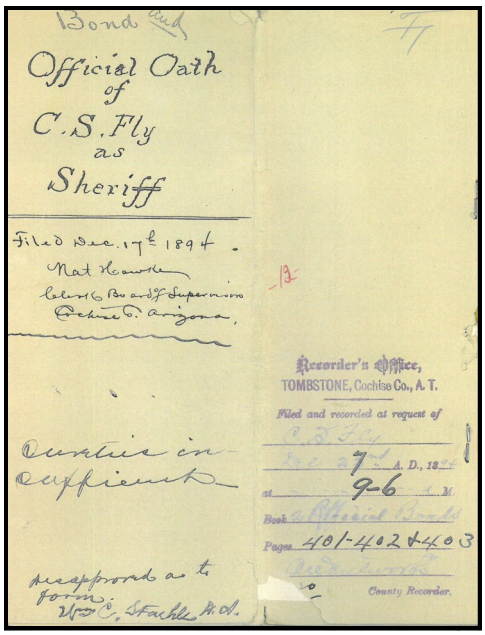
The Tombstone Courthouse

Cochise County Courthouse

A Research Destination

For over a century the Cochise County Recorder's Office has been a bustling research destination for authors, genealogists, oil/gas and mineral researchers, and movie-makers since the region exists as perhaps the most historically important county in the American Southwest. Certainly, Cochise County dominates in attracting Wild West fans with Tombstone as the focal point.

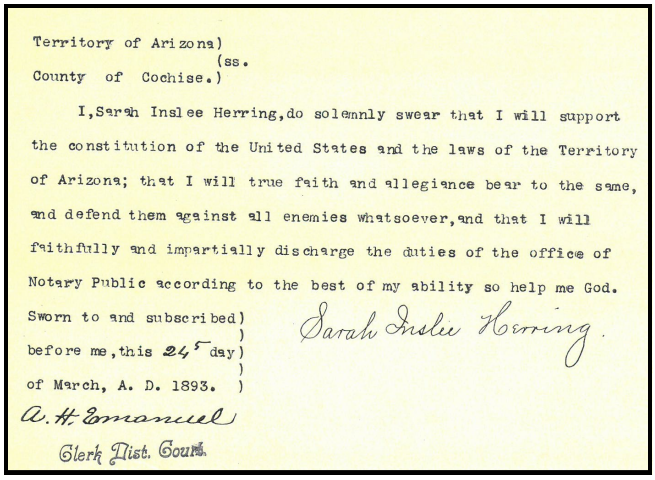
The office is a treasure-trove of fascinating public records reflecting the dynamic and dramatic development of an economy predominantly centered around mining, smelting, ranching, farming, cross-Mexican Border trade as well as the military influence with Forts Huachuca and Bowie. The county was also criss-crossed by a number of rail routes connecting the many mining and smelting


Bond
Official Oath
of
C. S. Fly
as
Sheriff
Filed Dec. 17th 1894.
Nat Hewitt
Clerk Board of Supervisors
Cochise Co. Arizona.
Quantity in
sufficient
Recorder's Office,
TOMBSTONE, Cochise Co., A. T.
Filed and recorded at request of
C. S. Fly
7 A. D., 18
at 9-6 M
Book Official Bonds
Pages 401-402 & 403
County Recorder.
Disapproved as to
form:
Atty. Gen. Stockle

Oath in 1894

Wide Array of Documents

The Recorder's Office is the official repository for a wide array of documents arranged in a manner making locating individual documents as reasonably convenient as feasible. Historically, documents commonly recorded included but were not limited to: Deed of Real Estate, Deed of Trust, Trust Deed, Deed of Distribution, Real Estate Mortgage, Chattel Mortgage, Agreement, Contract, Deed of Mines, Mining Location Notice, Millsite, Affidavit of Labor, Declaration of Homestead, Articles of Incorporation, Power of Attorney, Partnership, Lien, Lease, Marks and Brands, Spanish or Mexican Land Grants, Land Claim, Assignment, Release, Satisfaction of Mortgage, Judgment, Writ of Attachment, Oath, Bond, Sole Trader, Separate Property of Married Women, Physician Certificate, Foreign Marriage, and Military Discharge. The office houses thousands of official


Territory of Arizona)
(ss.
County of Cochise.)

I, Sarah Inslee Herring, do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States and the laws of the Territory of Arizona; that I will true faith and allegiance bear to the same, and defend them against all enemies whatsoever, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the office of Notary Public according to the best of my ability so help me God.

Sworn to and subscribed) before me, this 24th day) of March, A. D. 1893.

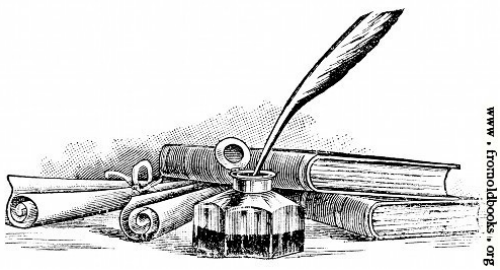
Sarah Inslee Herring.

A. H. Emanuel
Clerk Dist. Court.

Sarah Herring first female attorney in Arizona

maps of town sites, subdivisions, toll roads, county roads, mining districts, pipelines, abandonments as well as railroad and state highway-related maps. Survey maps are also recorded and available for public inspection.

Pen and Ink versus Typewriter



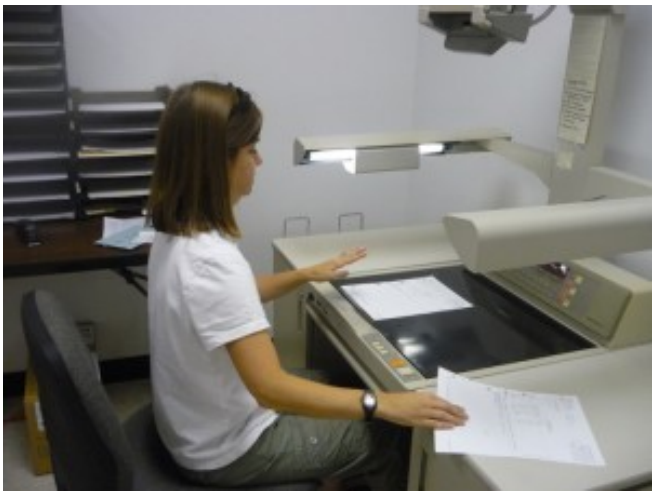
In the beginning and for decades thereafter records were mainly kept via pen and ink with handwriting varying from exquisitely legible to barely decipherable. Although typewriters were in fairly common use in the 1880's evidenced by filed documents, the indices and duplicated documents were primarily processed via various cursive and script styles. The original documents were presented for recording and then copied into the various record books by an office worker or deputy recorder. The original document was returned to the requesting party. There were years when both handwritten and typewritten methods were utilized intermittently depending on typewriter availability or skill of the office staff. In later years some recorders employed the practice of hiring high school students to type the information from recorded documents and insert the pages into the large record books.

Dockets and Photostatic Images

From the county's inception to December 1947 there were separate indices and record books for each main document type as well as a miscellaneous category. In December 1947 the office continued to create indices for each document type, but all types of documents were then chronologically contained in the docket books. When the docket system was instituted, the office deviated from typing which then predominated to duplicating the documents mechanically by way of the photostatic method that produced a reverse image. This was an innovative advancement for the office.

Microfilming

In 1967 the office began microfilming recordings but continued producing indices for each document type. At this juncture, the office ceased producing paper copies via the photostatic method. In 1977 the office began using general indices rather than separating document types for indexing purposes. In July 1985 the record-keeping was computerized using an in-house system that was developed by the county's IT Department under Director Verlyn Mason. However, permanent records continued to be maintained by microfilming.



Computerization and Imaging

The greatest technological advancement arrived in April 2008 when the Cochise County Recorder contracted the services of Saul's Creek Engineering. At this point forward documents are scanned with index available on-line from 1985 forward following an intense conversion project. Maintaining microfilm of documents continues to be required by state statute as scanning only is not considered permanent. Scanned documents from 2003 forward are currently available on-line in the office and to subscribers.

Cochise County Recorders from 1881-1981

COCHISE COUNTY CENTENNIAL 1881-1981

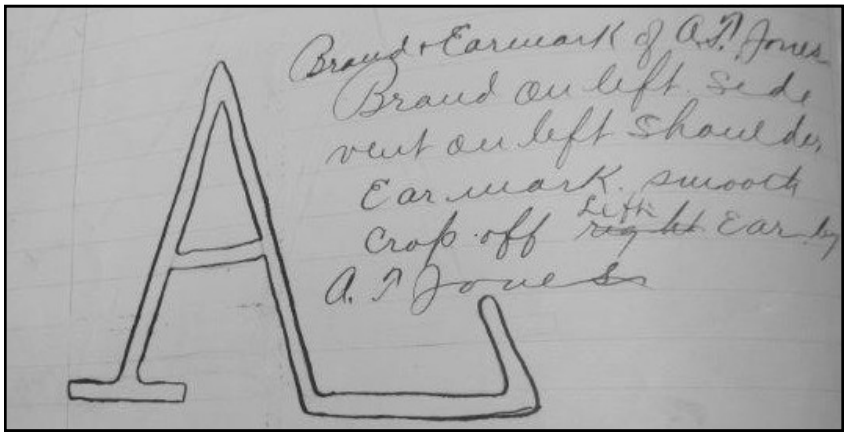
RECORDERS

Bradley, W. F. (1887-1892)
Brown, M. J. (1897-1898)
Dixon, James O. (1963-1972)
Drake, Charles (1881)
Hare, Frank (1899-1906)
Hutchison, H. L. (1921-1934)
Hutchison, Kathryn (1934-1936)
Jones, A. T. (1881-1886)
Krebs, Ray B. (1917-1920)
McDonald, C. A. (1907-1912)
Murphy, Owen E. (1912-1916)
Newbury, P. W. (1937-1962)
Rhodes, Christine (1973-)
Wentworth, A. (1893-1896)

The First Recorder

A.T. Jones (1881-1886)

Governor Frémont appointed Albert Thomas Jones, as Cochise County's first Recorder. A native Californian born about 1847, he roamed around Pacific Coast mining camps before arriving in Arizona in 1866. Jones was living in Charleston down near the San Pedro River by 1880 and worked as agent for James Carr's Huachuca Saw Mill and also served as a Justice of the Peace. Soon he was an active participant on the Tombstone political scene as a member of the Democratic Party. In addition to his political ambition he displayed an enthusiastic entrepreneurial spirit by investing in various properties in Tombstone and Cochise County.

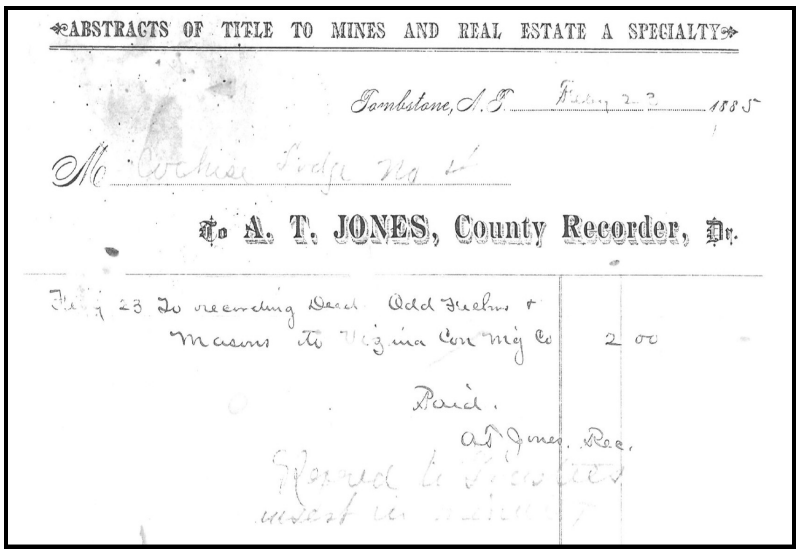


Jones' Cattle Brand

Records reveal that "Al" participated in intriguing real estate dealings while simultaneously serving as Cochise County Recorder. He invested in tax delinquent property as well as buying and selling Tombstone town lots. In 1882 he invested in a half interest in the McLaury Ranch, 4 miles south of Soldier's Hole in the Sulphur Springs Valley. Former owners, Tom and Frank McLaury, were killed during the OK Corral confrontation with the Earps and Doc Holliday on October 26, 1881. Jones also owned the Jones Ranch, formerly the Old Frick Ranch, in the Sulphur Springs Valley. He entered the livery business as owner of the Fashion Livery Stable in Tombstone that he purchased from Zeckendorf and Steinfeld. In 1885 he and former Cochise County Treasurer John Dunbar bought Doling's Race Track near Tombstone.

Jones-continued:

Drawn by the possibility of striking it rich, Jones joined several thousand other fortune-seekers in testing his talents at a variety of mining ventures. Between 1880 and 1886 he staked claims throughout the far-flung corners of Southeastern Arizona that included the following: Gem, Juniper Grove, Canyons 1 and 2, Granger, and Pony 1 and 2 in the Mule Mountains; Twilight, Fraction, Aloha, Richmond, Folio, and Eddy in the Tombstone area; Hard Scrabble in the Huachuca Mountains; Galena in the Dos Cabezas area; Baby Elephant, Hancock, Little McClelland, and Thanksgiving in the Chiricahua Mountains; and, Apache Chief in the Swisshelm Mountains (east of Elfrida). The Recorder's Office is the repository for these records that certainly preserve accurate evidence of a most fascinating past. The mining location notices present a glimpse into the spirit of the hardy pioneers as revealed by the description of one of Jones' claims: the Belle of the Woods is a relocation of the Octopus Claim and situated between the Jolly Brothers, Charter Oak and Poodle Dog Claims.


ABSTRACTS OF TITLE TO MINES AND REAL ESTATE A SPECIALTY

Tombstone, A.T. Feby 23 1885

To A. T. JONES, County Recorder, Dr.

Feby 23 To recording Deed Odd Fellows & Masons to Virginia Con Mg Co 2 00

Paid.

A.T. Jones, Rec.

Receipt by A.T. Jones in 1885

Jones further enhanced his investment opportunities by buying and selling mining claims. In 1881 he purchased a ¼ interest in the Son of a Gun Claim in the Dragoon Mountains from Cochise County Deputy Sheriff Billy Breakenridge and author of Helldorado, Bringing the Law to the Mesquite; in 1883 he purchased a 1/9th interest in the Copper Queen Mine in Bisbee that was formerly owned by George Warren for whom the Warren Townsite and Warren Mining District were named and whose prospector image appears on the Arizona State Seal; in 1885 he sold his interest in the Copper Queen Mine to W.E. Dodge, Jr. and D. Willis James of New York for the fairly princely sum of $15,000.

Jones-continued:

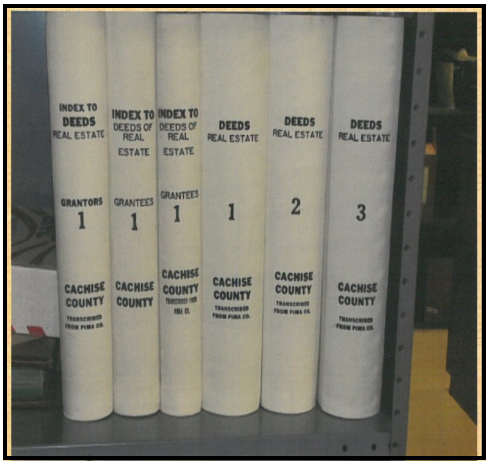
In addition to his political popularity, business acumen, real estate investments, and mining ventures, Recorder Jones was perhaps most appreciated for organizing and equipping the Tombstone Volunteers in response to the killing of Mounted U.S. Customs Official Billy Daniels at the mouth of Dixie Canyon near Forrest's Ranch on June 9, 1885. The generous and courageous Jones wrote a letter to U.S. President Grover Cleveland the following day reporting the killing and complaining of the general incompetency of federal troops stationed at Fort Huachuca and other nearby military outposts. The letter was also signed by Sheriff R.S. Hatch, County Treasurer A.J. Ritter, Collector of Customs J.C. Eastman, and Postmaster John Clum. Heavily-armed and sufficiently supplied with rations, the several dozen Tombstone Volunteers tirelessly but unsuccessfully trailed the accused Apaches until June 16th. The Tombstone Volunteers, termed "The Valiants" by famous diarist George Parsons, had chased the trail over the Mexican Border. However, the wily Apaches escaped and were well-hidden in the rough mountainous terrain. After serving his six year stent as Cochise County Recorder, Jones took off on his next great adventure accompanied by wife, Amelia Grace. They traveled to faraway Paraguay where he again exceeded expectations in the fruit and vegetable growing and shipping business.

The First Chief Deputy Recorder-B.A. Fickas

He had the great fortune to engage Benjamin A. Fickas as Chief Deputy Recorder. He was a popular political figure who had served in the Arizona Territorial Assembly. Fickas proved perfect for the position as he had assisted in the establishment of San Diego's first abstract office, a professional company that inspected and researched real estate records for the purpose of perfecting property titles. Due to his previous experience, Fickas fit the job as Chief Deputy Recorder to a tee since precise record-keeping employing the most current indexing methods was required as well as the best business practices.

At the time Cochise County was bursting with economic development including ranching, farming, mining, and railroads. The military at Fort Huachuca and Fort Bowie brought many soldiers, officers, and families along with military-related enterprises to Cochise County for their initial visit to the Southwest with many settling here or returning later.

The Transcription Project



Jones charged Chief Deputy Recorder Fickas with the monumental challenge of commanding a contracted crew of transcribers to travel to the Pima County Seat of Tucson to hand-copy an estimated 50,000 pages of documents containing millions of hand-written words that pertained to property lying within the newly surveyed Cochise County boundaries. Documents were neatly and accurately copied into the massive leather-bound, gold embossed volumes specifically designed for each document type. Fickas further directed the development of indices so that each document could be conveniently accessed by current and future researchers.

Chief Deputy Recorder Fickas laid the perfect foundation for the future of the primary record-keeping process for one of the Southwest's wealthiest and most populated counties as he clearly comprehended and definitively understood the purpose of each recorded document. He acknowledged that precise transcribing and indexing would equate to easing the burden of researchers generations later.

The successful production of the transcribed records exists as no ordinary feat since the endeavor included reading and culling through thousands of Pima County Recorder's records to discover those related to property within the new county. The transcribers carefully provided marginal notations with each copied document that evidenced where the documents were found within the original Pima County Records.

Pima County was one of the original four counties created when Arizona became a U.S. Territory in 1863, and upon its designation transcribers had copied records pertinent to property within its boundaries that incorporated earlier existing jurisdictional records from Spain, Mexico, and New Mexico that once had governed the region. For example, we can consider the geographical area that became Cochise County had once been part of Doña Ana County with county seat in Mesilla, New Mexico Territory.

Wyatt Earp Water Right

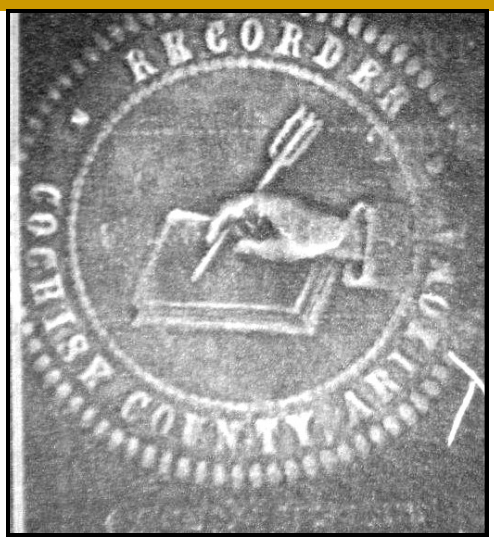
Notice, know all Men by these presents that we the undersigned Citizens of the United States of America do this day locate and claim all the waters in this Stream for mining, milling, manufacturing, and Culinary purposes, to be taken from its natural channel, by ditch, pipe, or flumes, and conveyed to where ever we may think proper to be used for the above purposes, this creek is situated on the Eastern Slope of the Huachuca range in a Cannon known as Hayes and Tannen, and about two miles from the mouth of said Cannon, our notice of location is on a board fifteen inches by eight inches nailed to a tree, within a few feet of a dam and ditch constructed by us, and all the waters of said creek turned into said ditch. This water right shall be known as the Wyatt Earp water right. Cochise County Arizona Territory. Located Feby the 2nd 1881

	Interests
Wyatt S. Earp	1/4.
John H. Holliday	1/4.
Rich B. Clark	1/4.
James Leavy	1/4.

Filed and recorded at request of R.B. Clark Feby 5th AD 1881 at 8.30 AM.

Chas R. Drake
County Recorder

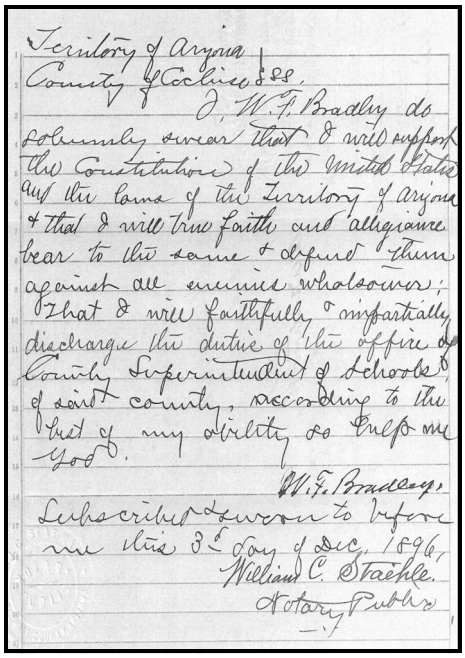
Wyatt Earp Water Right transcribed from Pima County Records



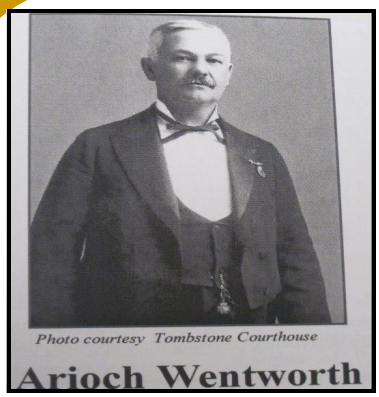
The official Recorder's Seal

W.F.Bradley (1887-1892)

William F. Bradley was born in Ohio about 1838. Bradley was a well-known saloonkeeper, politician, and public servant. In addition he was heavily invested in mining ventures. He purchased an interest in the Copper Queen Mine and other mines in the Mule Mountains for $6,000 from legendary George Warren and associates in June 1879. Between 1879 and 1891 Bradley's mining locations included Sycamore, Step Stone, Old Canteen, Fireman, Brady, Eureka, Diamond, Copper Monarch, Bust #2, Little Terror, Wilkes, and Silver Queen. He invested heavily in patented mining claims including the Ural, Crown Prince, Antelope, and Silver Spray and conducted business with some of Bisbee's well-connected investors such as Lewis Williams, D. Willis James, and William E. Dodge. In addition to service as the Recorder, he held honorable positions as Probate Judge and Cochise County School Superintendent. Bradley and his family had


Territory of Arizona
County of Cochise } ss.
I, W. F. Bradley do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the Territory of Arizona & that I will true faith and allegiance bear to the same & defend them against all enemies whatsoever; That I will faithfully & impartially discharge the duties of the office of County Superintendent of Schools of said county, according to the best of my ability so help me God.
W. F. Bradley,
Subscribed & sworn to before me this 3d day of Dec, 1896,
William C. Stachle.
Notary Public

Oath of W.F. Bradley



Arioch Wentworth (1893-1896)

From former Cochise County Treasurer Marsha Bonham's book, The Men and Women who have served as Cochise County Treasurer 1881-2012, we learn that Cochise County Recorder Wentworth, who also served as Treasurer, was born in Maine in 1850. In 1885 he moved to Fairbank, Arizona and worked for the New Mexico and Arizona Railroad and served as Wells Fargo Agent. In 1892, he moved to Tombstone and maintained the Tombstone Billiard Parlor. Wentworth was Tombstone Mayor from 1903 to 1910 and served as Justice of the Peace for several years.

We further enjoy his colorful life story that includes catching on the "Vinegarones" baseball team. His pets included trick cats, Pete and Smoky, that even turned somersaults. Wentworth was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Knights of Pythias, Improved Order of Redmen, Elks, and Ancient Order of the United Workmen.

An article by Fred Bennett (as told to Mrs. Houston Davis) in the Arizona Cattlelog (November 1949) states, "One of the characters of Tombstone was Mayor A. Wentworth, a staunch Democrat. When President McKinley was elected, Wentworth said he wouldn't cut his hair till we had a Democratic president. His locks were long and white before his dream came true."

Recorder Wentworth dabbled a bit in mining, too. His claims included Combination, Jackes, Tarantula, Silver Hill, Chaetam, Schieffelin, and Carbonate Patented. Wentworth passed away from pneumonia in 1921.

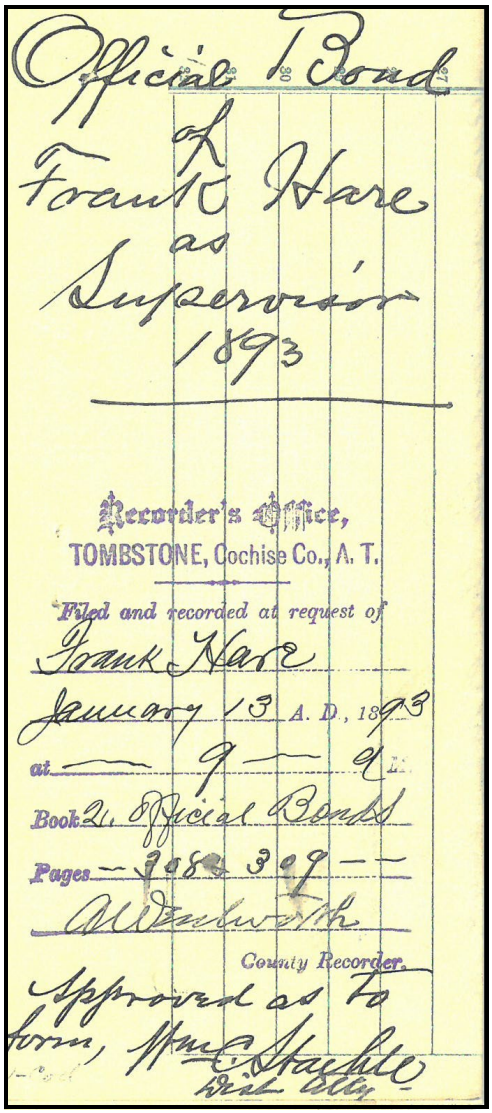
Headstone of Manson J. Brown

Manson J. Brown (1897-1898)

Brown took the reins of the Recorder's Office just shy of his 40th birthday. He was a Notary Public and had previously served as Justice of the Peace. He had mining interests in partnership with Probate Judge Frank Goodbody, Annie Goodbody, and M.J. Brophy. Their mining claims included Savannah, Jack Pot, Brophy, Edna (named for Brown's wife), Little Wilbur, and Malachite. He and Edna also owned property on the Northeast corner of Congdon and Shattuck Streets in the Warren Townsite. Perhaps Brown is best remembered as the proprietor of the Exchange Saloon on Bisbee's Main Street. Brown died in 1918 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

Frank Hare (1899-1906)

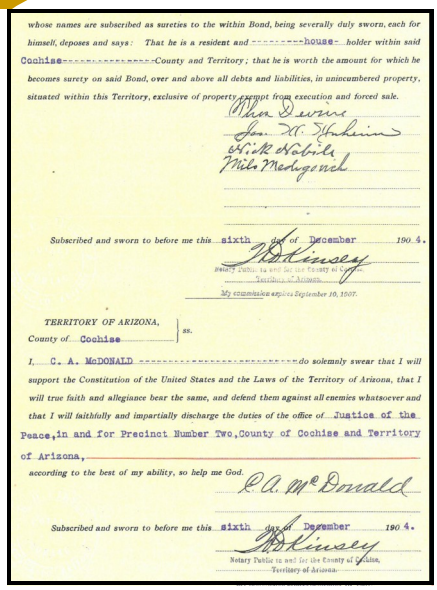
Hare and wife, Anna, both hailed from Indiana. Married in 1891, they were raising 5 young children in Tombstone by 1900. He served as a Cochise County Supervisor before becoming the Recorder. He followed in the tradition of prior Recorders and located mining claims called May Flower, Los Angeles, Gold Siding, Twinkle, Golden Eagle, Duncan, and Duncans #1-7. Hare pursued a career in the business world as proprietor of the Pioneer Livery Stable in Tombstone and owner of the ice plant in nearby Watervale. When he sold his interest in the ice plant, the inventory included an Arctic Ice Machine, ice wagons, ice chests, ice house, and a horse named "Frank". He owned Tombstone lots including one situated on the surface of the Mountain Maid Mining Claim and fronting on Allen Street. For years he and Anna busied themselves as farmers and ranchers. They owned acreage near Hereford, but their primary agricultural property was purchased from former Cochise County Sheriff Adelbert Lewis in the St. David vicinity. With this purchase came 3 shares of water in the St. David Canal and other water rights pertaining to the land. When Hare sold the Lewis Place after relocating to Uvalde, Texas, the transfer included brands, plows, mowing machine, and livestock corralled or running-at-large on the range but excluded 2 Jersey bulls and a few horses.


Official Bond
of
Frank Hare
as
Supervisor
1893

Recorder's Office,
TOMBSTONE, Cochise Co., A. T.

Filed and recorded at request of
Frank Hare
January 13 A. D., 1893
at — 9 — 9 M.
Book 2. Official Bonds
Pages — 308 309 — —
Allenworth
County Recorder.
Approved as to form, Wm C. Stachle
Dist Atty

Official Bond of Frank Hare



whose names are subscribed as sureties to the within Bond, being severally duly sworn, each for himself, deposes and says: That he is a resident and ---------house- holder within said Cochise----------County and Territory; that he is worth the amount for which he becomes surety on said Bond, over and above all debts and liabilities, in unincumbered property, situated within this Territory, exclusive of property exempt from execution and forced sale.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this sixth day of December 190 4.

My commission expires September 10, 1907.

TERRITORY OF ARIZONA, County of Cochise } ss.

I, C. A. McDONALD ----------do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Laws of the Territory of Arizona, that I will true faith and allegiance bear the same, and defend them against all enemies whatsoever and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the office of Justice of the Peace, in and for Precinct Number Two, County of Cochise and Territory of Arizona, according to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this sixth day of December 190 4.

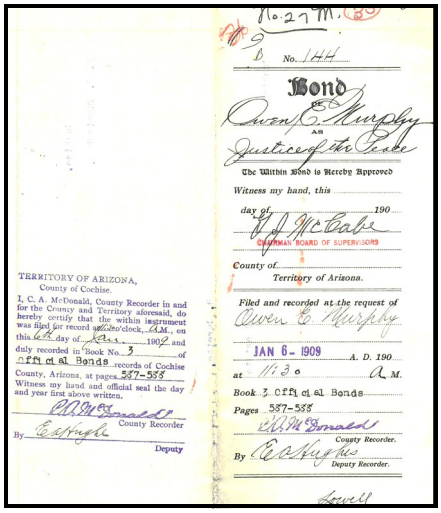
Notary Public in and for the County of Cochise, Territory of Arizona.

Bond of C.A. McDonald

C.A. McDonald (1907-1912)

Prior to becoming Recorder, McDonald served as Justice of the Peace. After his tenure as Recorder, he served on the Bisbee School Board of Trustees. McDonald was heavily engaged in mining interests. Claims included Homestake, Rattlesnake, Dead Broke, Standard, Rappahannock, All-Jays, Little Copper Queen, Little Cripple, Annie, Cambria, Kinsey, Johnnie, Bisbee, Easter Sunday, Mascot Extension, and the McDonald Group of 6 claims. For a time he acted as Trustee for the renowned Boquillas Land and Cattle Company. He and wife, Helen, owned 4 frame houses on Brewery Avenue, popularly called Brewery Gulch. In 1923 he deeded the houses to Helen for “love and affection”.

Owen E. Murphy (1912-1916)



Bond

Owen E. Murphy as Justice of the Peace

The Within Bond is Hereby Approved

Witness my hand, this ... day of ... 190...

CHAIRMAN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of ... Territory of Arizona.

Filed and recorded at the request of Owen E. Murphy

JAN 6 - 1909 A. D. 190...

at 11:30 A. M.

Book 3 Offl cl Bonds

Pages 587-588

County Recorder.

By ... Deputy Recorder.

TERRITORY OF ARIZONA, County of Cochise.

I, C. A. McDonald, County Recorder in and for the County and Territory aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within instrument was filed for record at ... o'clock ... M., on this 6th day of Jan. 1909 and duly recorded in Book No. 3 of Offl cl Bonds records of Cochise County, Arizona, at pages 587-588

Witness my hand and official seal the day and year first above written.

County Recorder

By ... Deputy

Bond Of Owen E. Murphy

Murphy was born in Vermont and arrived in Arizona in the early 1890’s. For a time he worked in the Bisbee mines. At the turn of the twentieth century he felt the patriotic call and joined the 34th U.S. Infantry Regiment and served 2 years combat duty during the Philippine Insurrection. It is interesting to note that Recorder Christine Rhodes’ grandfather, Captain Alister Macrae Macnab, was serving in the Philippines at the same time. Upon completing his military duties and returning to Cochise County, Murphy held the office of Justice of the Peace for several years and completed 2 terms in the Arizona Territorial Assembly. Murphy participated in the tradition of investing in mining by locating the following claims: Louden, Three Chums, Three Chums #1 and #2, Surprise, and Sunshine #1-#8.

1920's Dort driven by Ray B. Krebs

Ray B. Krebs (1917-1920)

Krebs' was a shining example of the free enterprise spirit. An Ohioan by birth, he was a buyer and seller of real estate in Tombstone, Bisbee, Benson, Warren, and even in Turner (near present day Huachuca City). He owned Gage Hall in Tombstone, which he purchased from Harry and Edith Macia in 1909. However, he has best been remembered as a car dealer. He and wife, Edna, owned and operated the Ray B. Krebs Auto Company in Lowell and the Day and Night Garage in Tombstone. A.L. Forkner of Tombstone purchased one Dort Automobile Model 9 from the Ray B. Krebs Auto Company in 1923. Krebs invested in crops including corn and garden vegetables from the Artesia Ranch on the San Pedro River as a potentially profit-producing project. Not to be left behind in the area of mining, he located the Dobe #1, Mud Hen, Dobe Fraction, Neglect, and Silver Peak. In an even more exciting venture, he joined an early Cochise County oil rush by investing in several oil claims near the Charleston Bridge on the San Pedro River: Inevitable, Paramount, Pure D Jack, Omniscient, and Omnivorous, each consisting of 160 acres. One of his oil claim partners was famous "Bisbee Deportation" and "Rough Rider" Sheriff Harry Wheeler. During Krebs' Recordership America approved women's suffrage, and voting trends changed forever.

Headstone of H.L. Hutchison

H.L. Hutchison (1921-1934)

Hutchison served diligently and loyally through the turbulent twenties, past the devastating stock market crash of 1929 and into the thirties. He was born in New Mexico and served as Chief Deputy Cochise County Recorder prior to attaining the Recorder position. Upon his passing in November 1934 a few days after his successful re-election, the County Supervisors' Resolution proclaimed, "WHEREAS: it has pleased an All-Wise Providence" to remove from our midst our friend H.L. Hutchison, and WHEREAS: During his long service as County Recorder, Mr. Hutchison, thru his unfailing courtesy, industry and integrity, earned the respect and affection of the citizens of Cochise County, and by his efficient administration of the affairs of the office set an example which will be an enduring influence on the civic affairs of Cochise County and the State of Arizona; BE IT RESOLVED: That while mourning his passing, the members of the Board of Supervisors, by this resolution spread on their minutes, express their gratitude for having had the privilege of association and friendship with H.L. Hutchison. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be sent members of Mr. Hutchison's family as a token of the sympathy of the officers, employees and citizens of Cochise County.

Headstone of Kathryn Hutchison

Kathryn G. Hutchison (1934-1936)

After Recorder H.L. Hutchison's untimely passing his wife, Kathryn, applied for the open position. She was unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors to complete the term expiring December 31, 1934. Thus, she became the first female Recorder. The Recorder position for the upcoming term commencing January 1, 1935 was also declared vacant, and the Board unanimously appointed Mrs. Hutchison for the full 2-year term. A nurse by profession, she did not run for Recorder when her term expired December 31, 1936.

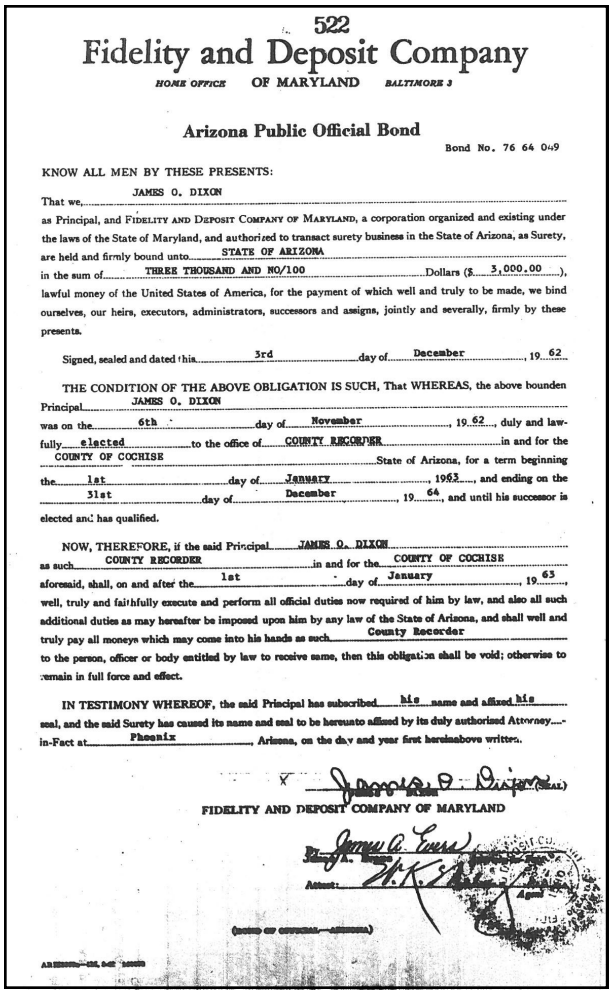
P.W. Newbury (1937-1962)

Newbury was first elected in November 1936 and re-elected every 2 years until his retirement at term's end in 1962. He and wife, Mary, owned property in both Gleeson and Pearce areas. In 1915 the Newburys sold a 4 room dwelling house, poultry house, feed house, corral, shed, water pipes, windmill, iron tank, 2 wells, 200 fruit trees, and 4,100 feet of "barb" wire fencing in Gleeson area. In Bisbee the Newburys bought a house on Quality Hill in 1922, and then in 1937 the couple acquired a home on Tombstone Canyon Road. Mining claims located by Newbury included the Ranger #1 and #2 as well as the Copper Gold #1 and #2. He was duly appointed as a Cochise County Deputy Sheriff by Sheriff I.V. Pruitt in January 1949. Therefore, he served as Recorder and Deputy Sheriff simultaneously. During his tenure as Recorder, Newbury introduced the docket system and photostatic copies as well as a new indexing method. Newbury enjoyed visiting Recorder Christine Rhodes in her office to peruse the well-worn official map of Courtland Townsite, and to relate the story of his attendance at the opening day of lot sales in 1909. He camped out near Courtland the night before to have a chance at buying prime property the following morning. Newbury passed away in 1977 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

James O. Dixon (1963-1972)

Dixon hailed from Douglas, was a former teacher, and served as Chief Deputy Recorder prior to winning the Recorder position in 1962. As a space saving measure he introduced microfilming as the primary method of maintaining records. Microfilming eliminated the need to continue increasing storage space for the docket and index books. In the late 1950's Dixon and wife, Mary, lost their home in what is now commonly called Old Bisbee because of its location on the route of the new Highway 80. They relocated to San Jose Estates on the south side of the Mule Mountains.

In December of 1972 Recorder-elect Christine Rhodes drove the retiring Dixon in her Ford Pinto to a Recorder's Meeting in the old Adams Hotel in downtown Phoenix, where he received recognition for his service to Cochise County and the State of Arizona. He passed away in 1993 and is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Douglas.



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Fidelity and Deposit Company

HOME OFFICE OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE 3

Arizona Public Official Bond

Bond No. 76 64 049

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That we, JAMES O. DIXON

as Principal, and FIDELITY AND DEPOSIT COMPANY OF MARYLAND, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Maryland, and authorized to transact surety business in the State of Arizona, as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto STATE OF ARIZONA

in the sum of THREE THOUSAND AND NO/100 Dollars ($ 3,000.00), lawful money of the United States of America, for the payment of which well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

Signed, sealed and dated this 3rd day of December, 19 62

THE CONDITION OF THE ABOVE OBLIGATION IS SUCH, That WHEREAS, the above bounden Principal JAMES O. DIXON

was on the 6th day of November, 19 62, duly and lawfully elected to the office of COUNTY RECORDER in and for the COUNTY OF COCHISE State of Arizona, for a term beginning the 1st day of January, 1963, and ending on the 31st day of December, 19 64, and until his successor is elected and has qualified.

NOW, THEREFORE, if the said Principal JAMES O. DIXON as such COUNTY RECORDER in and for the COUNTY OF COCHISE aforesaid, shall, on and after the 1st day of January, 19 63, well, truly and faithfully execute and perform all official duties now required of him by law, and also all such additional duties as may hereafter be imposed upon him by any law of the State of Arizona, and shall well and truly pay all moneys which may come into his hands as such County Recorder to the person, officer or body entitled by law to receive same, then this obligation shall be void; otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said Principal has subscribed his name and affixed his seal, and the said Surety has caused its name and seal to be hereunto affixed by its duly authorized Attorney-in-Fact at Phoenix, Arizona, on the day and year first hereinabove written.

X James O. Dixon (SEAL)

FIDELITY AND DEPOSIT COMPANY OF MARYLAND

By James A. Evans

Attest: M. K. [illegible] Agent

Official Bond of James O. Dixon

Current Cochise County Recorder in research room

Christine Rhodes (1973-Present)

Rhodes was first elected as Christine Macnab in 1972. She faced several opponents that year but survived heated campaigns in both the Primary and General Elections. In 1973 she married West Virginian Lowell David Rhodes. Thus, the name changed. Rhodes has been re-elected each four-year term since. (Terms consisted of two years prior to 1968.) During her terms many changes have been instituted including computerization of the Voter Registration Section in 1983 and the Recording Section in 1985. Currently, the Voter Registration Section operates as a centralized system under the auspices of the Arizona Secretary of State. The Recording Section is experiencing a significant increase in electronic (paperless) recordings. Public record indices are publicly accessible, and images are available on-site and by subscription.

Rhodes is a graduate of Naco School, Bisbee High School, and Cochise College. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Science and English Secondary Education and Master of Arts Degree in History and Political Science from Northern Arizona University at Flagstaff. She is also an Arizona Election Official and a former Presidential Elector. Prior to becoming Recorder, Rhodes served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the NAU Social Science Department and taught English at both Valley Union High School in Elfrida and at Cochise College. For her journalism experience, she established the Naco News Review and was a columnist for The Bisbee Observer (7 years) and The Western Forum (5 years).

The Arizona native is Secretary of the Bisbee Council on the Arts and Humanities' Governing Board, serves on the Muheim Heritage House Committee, and was recently elected Vice-President of the Cochise Education Foundation. She is active in Westerners International, the Arizona Historical Society, and several other history-oriented organizations.

She has 2 grown children: Mike, who works at Cochise County Fleet Management, and Erin, a teacher at Naco Elementary School. Grandson, Jeremy, attends Cochise College. Mr. Rhodes passed away in 2014.

Voter Registration

Since 1881 the Cochise County Recorder has fulfilled the responsibility of registering voters and maintaining voter records for county, state, and national elections. In this way the office has played a vital role in the election process. Until the early 1940's the office kept the voter registration records in large leather-bound ledgers called Great Registers. In this manner the information was preserved for the county's political posterity and as evidence of the vitality of voting through the many decades. Great Registers list age, birthplace, and occupation as well as physical characteristics and political party preference for the county's pioneers and founding fathers.

Some examples of names that flow through the pages of the Great Registers and continue to be recognized today include: Wyatt Earp, Ike Clanton, Sarah Herring (Arizona's 1st woman attorney), Frank Hereford, Henry Hooker, Barney Riggs, William Fourr, Joseph Muheim, Joseph Goldwater, José Castañeda, Tom "Blood Brother of Cochise" Jeffords, Billy Breakenridge, Judge Wells Spicer, John "Doc" Holliday, B.A. Packard, Col. William Cornell Greene, Capt. John Greenway, Isabella Greenway (Arizona's 1st Congresswoman), John Clum, Jeff Milton, Dr. George Goodfellow, Robert "Sandy Bob" Crouch, Wells Fargo Undercover Agent Fred Dodge, C.S. Fly (Geronimo photographer), "Texas" John Slaughter, and Nashville Franklin "Buckskin Frank" Leslie.

As late as the 1970's some cities, including Bisbee, maintained a voter registration system whereby citizens were required to register at City Hall to participate in city elections. Recorder Christine Rhodes felt it was unfair to require citizens to register twice and for municipalities to maintain a separate list. Rhodes and former Bisbee Mayor Frank Peters successfully lobbied the Arizona State Legislature to outlaw the practice.

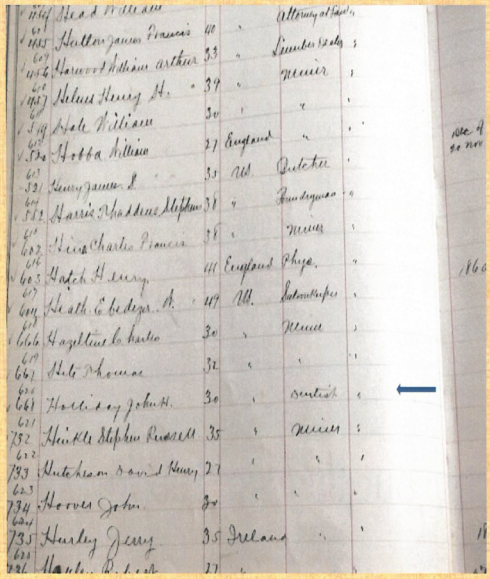
Voter Registration-continued

Throughout the decades there have been voter registration challenges. One example was reported in an article in the November 2, 1902 issue of The Bisbee Daily Review headlined by "THE TRUTH ABOUT THE REGISTRATION OF SNODGRASS". A Voter Registrar named Williams was challenged, and the registration was declared illegal because it appeared Mr. Snodgrass did not apply for voter registration status and sign the Affidavit of Registration in Williams' presence. Nowadays it is legal for persons to register themselves either electronically, on a paper form, or in conjunction with applying for a driver license.

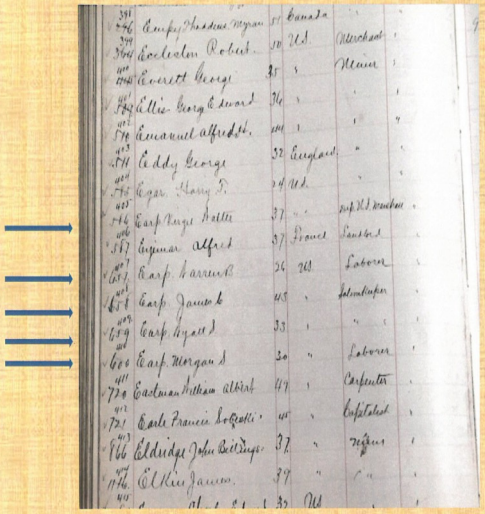
The Recorder's Office is the repository of voter registration statistics that reveal political party trends. These statistics demonstrate the changing political atmosphere of Cochise County and the manner in which these changes affect partisan elections. The Recorder is charged with maintaining voter history for individual persons who participate in the voting process. By maintaining this data, political science students and professional pollsters representing candidates and the media can often accurately predict election results

Doc Holliday **Wyatt Earp**

Great Register
John H. Holliday, dentist



Earp Brothers Register to Vote
Dep Marshall, Laborer, Saloon Keeper



Left to right-Eleanor Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, and Isabella Greenway

Isabella Greenway registered to vote in Cochise County in 1924. She was the first female Member of Congress from Arizona.