

# Tombstone Territory Rendezvous Symposium

THE TRAMPING & TAMING OF TOMBSTONE:  
Wild Women, Soiled Doves, & Exceptional Women

October 22-26, 2025

MC Eric Erdman

**Wednesday, October 22, 2025**

12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tailgate/Meet and Greet at Tombstone Brewing Company, 107 E. Toughnut Street  
Registration, pick up your Event Bag with Schedule

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Dinner on your own

5:00-5:15 p.m.

Gather at Roy Fourr American Legion Hall, 225 E. Allen St.  
Welcome to TTR Symposium 2025

5:15-6:15 p.m. Book Review Panel

Garth Gould, Moderator

Glenn Boyer, *I Married Wyatt Earp*. Review by Garth Gould

Sherry Monahan, *Mrs. Earp*. Review by Tonya Erdman

Lynn R. Bailey, *Clara Spalding Brown*. Review by Gary Mitrovich

Jan Cleere, *100 Western Women*. Review by Karene Erdman

6:15-6:30 p.m. Break

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Presentation: *Prostitution in Tombstone and the Wild West: Background for Sinning*, Doug Hocking

7:30 p.m. Free time for night tours, campfire at the Larian Motel, or saloon hopping

## Presenters

**Karene Erdman** is a retired RN and art therapist with a master's degree. Karene has a deep appreciation for stories that explore the human condition. A passionate reader of history and the Bible, she brings both insight and curiosity to every discussion. Karene has a personal connection to the past—she's married to a descendant of Newton Earp and has visited Tombstone, Arizona more times than she can count. For over two decades, she's attended the Tombstone Territory Rendezvous and is a member of WWHA. Her thoughtful perspective and love of history bring a unique voice to the panel.

**Tonya Erdman** is a big fan of history but also true crime—she loves a story that feels real and sticks with you. She works as a manager for the state of Washington, and outside of work, you'll usually find her behind a camera or chasing after grandkids. She's the secretary for the newly reformed non profit Tombstone Territory Rendezvous Symposium, which just makes sense—her husband's related to the Earps, and she's been visiting Tombstone for almost twenty years. It's still one of her favorite places. Tonya's excited to be part of the panel and always enjoys a good book and even better conversation.

**Garth Gould.** To paraphrase Lincoln, who borrowed the description from someone else, my life has mostly consisted of, "the short and simple annals of the working world." I've been a janitor, saloon swamper/bartender, airman, and social worker. In 1973 the combined wallop of Walter Noble Burns, Tombstone, and the Eagles' *Desperado* album left me with a fascination for the Wild West I've never lost. I've been an assiduous reader of its literature ever since.

**Doug Hocking** has completed graduate studies in American history, ethnology, and historical archaeology. Raised on the Jicarilla (hic-a-ree-yah) Apache Reservation, Doug retired from the US Army after serving in Military Intelligence and as an officer in Armored Cavalry. He is the author of many award-winning books of Southwest history including *Southwest Train Robberies; Terror on the Santa Fe Trail*, a history of the Jicarilla tribe; *Tom Jeffords, Friend of Cochise*; and *Black Legend*, about the Bascom Affair. He has won the Spur Award, the Will Rogers Medallion, and the Co-founders' Award for Best History and the Danielson Award for best presentation. Doug received the 2025 Spur Award for "Mysterious Death of Johnny Ringo." Doug is the founder of the Tombstone Festival of Western Books.

**Gary Mitrovich** is a third-generation native of San Diego. He served on the San Diego Police Department from 1980 to 2012, retiring honorably as a Detective Sergeant. During his career he was awarded the Medal of Valor and the Purple Heart. In 1997, Gary co-founded the San Diego Police Historical Association. In 2008, he published a book about local law enforcement history, *East of San Diego—The Lost History of the East San Diego Police Department 1912-1923*. Since 2015, he has volunteered for the Lakeside (California) Historical Society, where he produces the monthly newsletter as well as numerous booklets on Lakeside history. He also served at the society's president for four years.





## Thursday, October 23, 2025

Breakfast on your own

8:30-9:00 a.m.

Gather at Schieffelin Hall, 402 E. Fremont St.

*TTR Symposium 2025 Opening Ceremony*, Chuck Hornung

- Invocation
- Welcome

9:15-10:00 a.m.

Presentation: *Mary McNelis Costello Saves Tombstone's First National Bank*, Gil Storms

10:00-10:45 a.m.

Presentation: *Tombstone's Terrible Marriages*, Paul Johnson

5 Minute Break

10:50-11:35 a.m.

Presentation: *The Violent Past of New Mexico's Bootheel*, Bill Cavaliere

11:40a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Lunch on your own

1:00 p.m.

Gather at Schieffelin Hall, Symposium updates

1:15-2:00 p.m.

Presentation: *Rooms for Rent: Landladies in Early Tombstone*, Jan Cleere

2:00-2:45 p.m.

Presentation: *Sarah Herring Sorin: How a Tombstone Schoolteacher Became Arizona's First Woman Lawyer and Supreme Court Trailblazer*, Jacquelyn Kasper

5 Minute Break

2:50-3:35 p.m.

Presentation: *Fashion on the Frontier: What Women Wore in Tombstone*, Jessica LaVelle

3:35-4:25 p.m.

Presentation: *Prostitution in Tombstone: Desperation to Destruction*, Debbie Ramsey

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Dinner on your own

6:00-6:15 p.m.

Gather at Roy Fourr American Legion Hall, Symposium updates

6:15-7:15 p.m.

Presentation: *They Call Her Aunt Allie: Alvira Packingham Sullivan Earp*, Chuck Hornung

7:30 p.m.

Free time for night tours, campfire at the Larian Motel, or saloon hopping



## Presenters

**Bill Cavaliere**, president of the Cochise County Historical Society, is an independent researcher, who retired after 28 years in law enforcement, during which time he was sheriff of Hidalgo County, New Mexico. Prior to this, he was employed by the US Forest Service in the Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona. He and his wife Jill live on a cattle ranch near Portal, Arizona, where he has written articles published in historical journals and magazines such as *Wild West*. He is the author of *The Chiricahua Apaches: A Concise History* and is currently working on a biography of the Chiricahua Apache chief, Naiche.

**Jan Cleere** has been researching and writing about early western women for over twenty-five years. Her work, including over a half-dozen books, has earned accolades from the writing industry, including the Will Rogers Medallion awards, New Mexico/Arizona Book awards, Women Writing the West, Military Writers Society of America, National Federation of Press Women, Feathered Quill, and Arizona Authors Association. The Arizona Newspapers Association recognized Jan for a series of historical profiles she wrote for *Phoenix Woman Magazine*, and the Nevada Women's History Project named her to its Roll of Honor. She is featured in several anthologies and her freelance work appears in national and regional publications.

**Chuck Hornung** was born in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and was raised on a country farm among the history of the original frontier west. As a teenager, he journeyed west to fulfill his dream of learning the heritage of the range country and fulfilled his dream. Chuck is the recognized authority concerning the history of the New Mexico Mounted Police. He has spent over 60 years researching and chronicling the history of these lawmen in an authoritative five book series. In his ground breaking *Wyatt Earp's Cowboy Campaign: The Bloody Restoration of Law and Order on the Mexican Border, 1882* (2016) Chuck shared his well-researched second love with the general public. He is currently finalizing a definitive tome titled *The Frontier World of Henry Lambert* dealing with the founder of the renown St. James Hotel in Cimarron that was the central point of New Mexico's bloody Colfax County Range War. Cimarron almost became another Tombstone adventure for Wyatt Earp. Chuck Hornung was awarded the Lifetime Contribution Award for Western History research and writing by the Tombstone Territory Rendezvous in 2022. He is currently chair of the Board of Governors of the Tombstone Territory Rendezvous, host of TTR Symposium 2025.

**Paul Johnson** and his wife, Mary, have lived in New York City since 1971. He is a member of the Seneca Village Advisory Board and his church's resident historian. He recently published a history of his church, *With Gladness and Singleness of Heart*. His interest in Tombstone and the McLaurys began when he was 14. In 2012, he published *The McLaurys in Tombstone, Arizona: An O.K. Corral Obituary* through UNT Press. He has been a frequent presenter at TTR.

**Jacquelyn Kasper** is a retired law librarian from the University of Arizona College of Law. She managed the Arizona, Indigenous, and federal documents collections, conducted research for faculty, and taught legal research. She has a B.A. cum laude from Kansas Wesleyan University, a master's degree from the University of Southern California, and J.D. from the University of Arizona. Her research interests are in Arizona's territorial woman lawyer, Sarah Herring Sorin, and Arizona legal history in general.

**Jessica LaVelle**, originally from Spokane, WA, has been researching and creating historical clothing since she was 15. She loves reading, writing, and anything history-related. This is her second year at TTR, and she's very excited to be able to share her love of history with family and friends.

**Debbie Ramsey** is a retired personal executive assistant, who grew up in the desert Southwest but spent much of her adult life in the suburbs of Atlanta, GA. There, in her 50s, she went back to school, rekindled a desire to write, and published three books with Daydreamer Books (an offshoot of RJ Books). After spending many delightful years in Georgia, enjoying fishing and boating, she moved back to the desert and lives in Tombstone on the ranch she's always dreamed of owning, with her partner, Jose, and their menagerie of critters.

**Gil Storms** is an independent researcher and author who lives in Tucson. He has a Ph.D. in English and taught at Miami University (Ohio) for 30 years. He is the author of *Reconnaissance in Sonora: Charles D. Poston's Exploration of Mexico and the Gadsden Purchase* and *Raphael Pumpelly's Arizona: The Frontier Adventures of a Young Mining Engineer*, which was a Finalist for a Western Writers of America Spur Award and won an Independent Press Award for best book of nonfiction history. His articles have appeared in *The Journal of Arizona History*, the *Wild West History Association Journal*, and *Desert Tracks*. His article "Raphael Pumpelly Travels the Devil's Road" won a WWHA award for Best Historical/Scholarly Article, and his presentation on "Raphael Pumpelly and the Apaches" won a TTR Award for Best Presentation. He is a member of the TTR Board of Governors and Sheriff of the Adobe Corral of the Westerners, Tucson.

## Friday, October 24, 2025

Breakfast on your own

8:45-9:00 a.m.

Gather at Schieffelin Hall, Symposium updates

9:15-10:00 a.m.

Presentation: *Nellie Cashman, Tombstone and Beyond*, Garner Palenske

10:00-10:45 a.m.

Presentation: *Clara Spalding Brown (1853-1935)*, Gary Mitrovich

5 Minute Break

10:50-11:35 a.m.

Presentation: *Laura Georgina Crable: Her Life and Legacy*, Nancy Sosa

11:40 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Lunch on your own

1:00 p.m. Gather at Schieffelin Hall, Symposium updates

1:15-2:00 p.m.

Presentation: *Sing Choy, Female Merchant Extraordinaire*, Tom Moy

2:00-2:45 p.m.

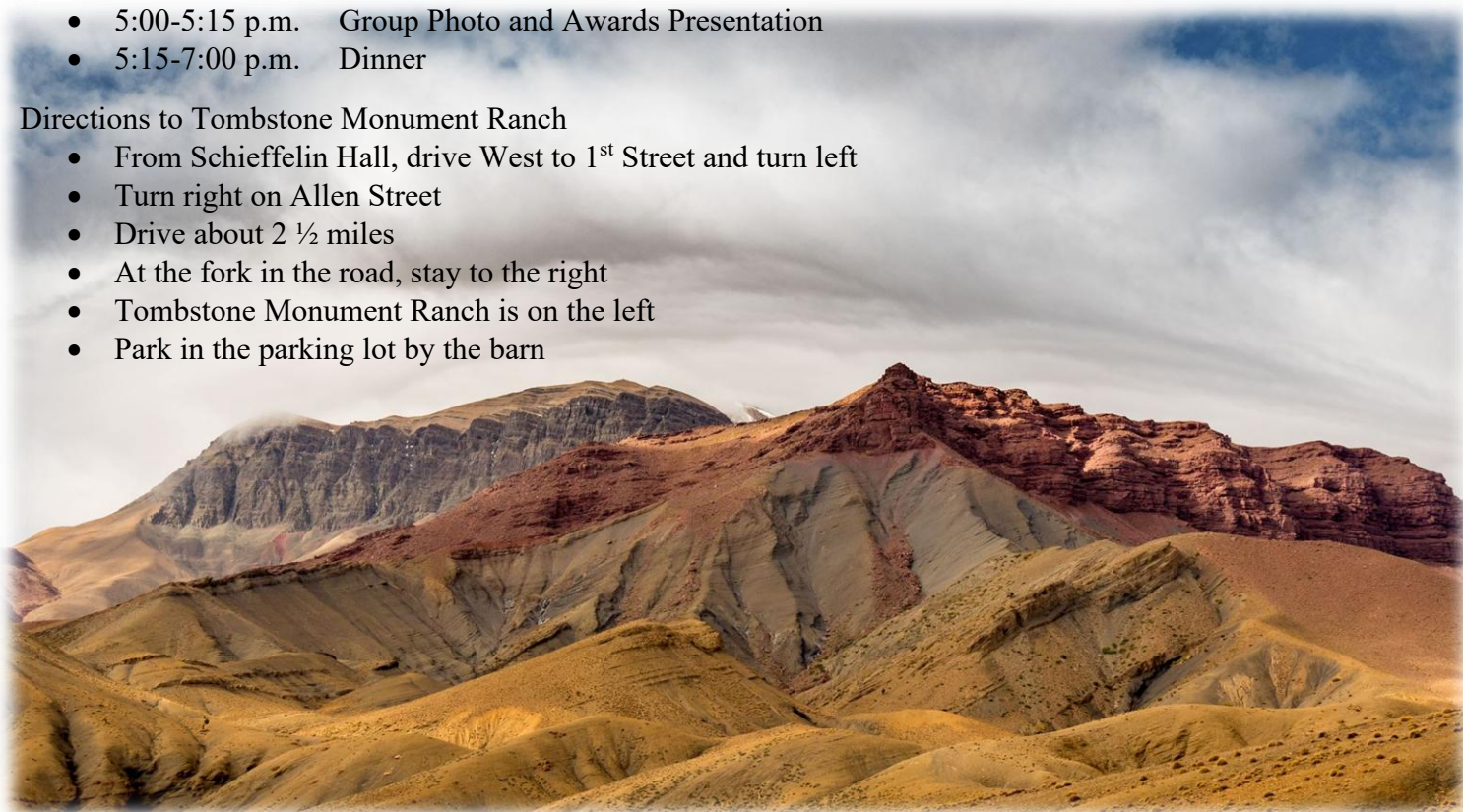
Presentation: *Botanizing in Apache Land*, Jana Segal

4:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner at the Tombstone Monument Ranch

- 4:00-5:00 pm. Cash bar
- 5:00-5:15 p.m. Group Photo and Awards Presentation
- 5:15-7:00 p.m. Dinner

Directions to Tombstone Monument Ranch

- From Schieffelin Hall, drive West to 1<sup>st</sup> Street and turn left
- Turn right on Allen Street
- Drive about 2 ½ miles
- At the fork in the road, stay to the right
- Tombstone Monument Ranch is on the left
- Park in the parking lot by the barn





## Presenters

**Garner A. Palenske** and his family live in San Diego, California. Garner is an award-winning historian. His work includes the book *Wyatt Earp in San Diego, Life After Tombstone*. In addition, he's a contributing author to *A Wyatt Earp Anthology*, which won both *True West Magazine* and the *Journal of the Wild West History Association* Book of the Year award in 2019. Garner's most recent work, *The Whaley Family, Past and Presence*, presents the story of Thomas Whaley, famous California business man and the house he built in Old Town San Diego thought to be America's most haunted house. Garner also has published articles in *True West Magazine*, the *Journal of the Wild West History Association*, and the *Tombstone Tumbleweed*. Garner has presented historic topics at such events as the Arizona Historical Society conventions and is a multi-year TTR presenter. He earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in engineering. An accomplished researcher, he has published several engineering research projects. Palenske is a member of the Wild West History Association and the San Diego History Center. He also serves as president of the First San Diego Courthouse Museum in Old Town San Diego.

**Gary Mitrovich** is a third-generation native of San Diego. He served on the San Diego Police Department from 1980 to 2012, retiring honorably as a Detective Sergeant. During his career, he was awarded the Medal of Valor and the Purple Heart. In 1997, Gary co-founded the San Diego Police Historical Association. In 2008, he published a book about local law enforcement history: *East of San Diego—The Lost History of the East San Diego Police Department 1912-1923*. Since 2015, he has volunteered for the Lakeside (California) Historical Society, where he produces the monthly newsletter as well as numerous booklets on Lakeside history. He also served at the society's president for four years.

**Tom Moy** is a recipient of the Arizona Historical Society's Don Bufkin Award in Territorial History for 2023 and a long time TTR attendee.

**Jana Segal-Stormont** is a writer-storyteller, who has shared dramatic readings of historical documents such as Mary Ringo's Pioneer Journal, Mary Clum's letters to Tombstone Mayor John Clum, and Sharlot Hall's 1880's Christmas story, "The Fruit of the Yucca Tree," at Tombstone Territory Rendezvous and Empire Ranch. She shares her passion for native Sonoran plants on her blog, "Sustainable Living Tucson." She also offers a presentation on the history of the Santa Cruz River, "Chukson River Story." She is thrilled to honor Sara Plummer Lemmon with this reading of *The Forgotten Botanist* by Wynne Brown.



## Saturday, October 25, 2025

Breakfast on your own

8:45-9:00 a.m.

Gather at Schieffelin Hall, Symposium Updates

9:00-9:15 a.m.

*In Memoriam: The End of the Trail Memorials*

9:15-10:00 a.m.

**TTR Open Board of Governors Meeting**

10:00-10:45 a.m.

Presentation: *Ethel Robertson Macia: Tombstone's First Historian*, Burton Devere

5 Minute Break

10:50-11:35 a.m.

Presentation: *Samantha Fallon and Tombstone's San Jose House*, Bob Palmquist

11:40 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Lunch on your own

1:00 p.m.

Gather at Schieffelin Hall, Symposium updates

1:15-2:00 p.m.

Presentation: *Sarah Rousseau: Seven States with the Earps*, Janelle Molony

2:00-2:45 p.m.

Presentation: *Tombstone Vigilettes Fashion Show 1880-1929*

5 Minute Break

2:50-3:35 p.m.

Presentation: *Edna Landin, Tombstone's Tireless Western Heritage Promoter*, Jan LoVecchio

3:35-4:35 p.m.

Presentation: *Obscurity, Celebrity, and Tragedy: A Pacific Pearl Comes to Tombstone*, Mike Mihaljevich

4:35-4:45 p.m. *Closing Remarks*, Chuck Hornung

Dinner on your own, and free time for night tours, campfire at the Larian Motel, or saloon hopping



## Presenters

**Burton Devere, Jr.** was born and raised in Tombstone. He is an internationally known mining and mineral exploration geologist, whose career has spanned 37 years. During that time, he lived and worked in the western United States, Canada, Central America, Australia, the Philippines, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, and Chile. During his career, Burton has been an underground mine geologist, a field and project geologist, and a senior and chief geologist. He has managed major mining projects and mineral exploration and development in countries around the world. His book *Bonanzas to Borrascas: The Mines of Tombstone, Arizona* is a must-read for anyone interested in Tombstone mining.

**Janolyn Lovecchio** has been an Arizona resident since 1962 and always enjoys visiting Tombstone. She is a retiree of the University of Arizona and has received awards for her publications and presentations about Arizona women's history at state and national history conventions. Her most recent article about the Pima County Preventorium was published in the spring 2025 issue of *Journal of Arizona History*.

**Mike Mihaljevich** is an author, historical researcher, and photographer. He has worked with the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson and the Tombstone City Archives. His writings have appeared in the *Wild West History Association Journal* and most recently in his book *The Bird Cage Theater: The Curtain Rises on Tombstone, Arizona's National Treasure*, published by the University of North Texas Press. As a photographer his work has been awarded and exhibited internationally and has been featured in documentaries of Ken Burns and notable publications such as *Western Life Today*.

**Janelle Molony, M.S.L.**, is the third great-granddaughter of Sarah Rousseau and an internationally recognized family historian. She has won numerous prestigious awards for her works on the Rousseau diary. Molony is a prolific nonfiction writer with stories about individuals from the Civil War Era, Depression Era, and westward travel. Her work has been featured in the *Annals of Wyoming*, the *Michigan Historical Review*, *Minnesota Genealogist*, *History Nebraska* magazine, on the cover of the *Wild West History Association Journal*, and in other academic and themed publications. Molony hosts the popular interview series, "Women of Wyoming: Then & Now," and her vibrant YouTube content has earned her the moniker, the "Hottie Historian." Molony's work promotes the active preservation of women's voices and the equitable representation of their perspectives on matters of US history. She is a supporting member of the Oregon-California Trails Association, Women Writing the West, the Wild West History Association, and Western Writers of America. She is a consultant for the Wyoming Historical Society and is featured on the Western Association of Women Historians' Wall of Experts.

**Bob Palmquist** holds a BA in History from Penn State University (1973) and an MA in History from the University of Arizona (1990). A retired attorney, he has written numerous articles and presented papers on Arizona history, featuring Tombstone characters and events at many functions, including TTR, Arizona History conventions, and other venues.

**Nancy Sosa** is an independent historical researcher who specializes in Tombstone, Cochise County, Arizona and genealogy research. A 6<sup>th</sup> generation Tombstone native, she has presented papers on Tombstone and Arizona history at various state conventions and previous TTR gatherings.

**The Tombstone Vigilettes** are a non-profit, charitable organization of ladies portraying the women of Tombstone, Arizona, from 1880 to 1915. Our motto is "Have Petticoats, Will Travel." The Vigilettes were founded in 1957 for the purpose of promoting interest in and preserving the women's fashions of the Victorian and Edwardian eras, particularly in the years of Tombstone's boom-town days—1879-1915.





**Sunday, October 26, 2025**

Breakfast on your own

10:00 a.m.

Cowboy Church at the Larian Motel, Chuck Hornung and Paul Johnson

**End of TTR 2025**

**Don't Forget to Make Your Hotel Reservations for Next Year's Events!**

**Dates To Remember**

**March 17 and 18, 2026**

*March March: The March March of the Gunfighters*

**June 13, 2026**

*Arizona Territorial Justice Forum*

**October 21-25, 2026**

**Annual Symposium**

*Gunbattle on Fremont Street: The "O.K. Corral Gunfight," From Questionable Justice to Legendary Heroes*

