

**CURRENT COMMENT****DAN R. WILLIAMSON**

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O. C. Williams, under sheriff of Navajo County, Arizona, writes to correct a historical statement which has been appearing in the Arizona Historical Review under the heading "Arizona Historical Data." The error regards the location of Navajo Springs, where Governor John N. Goodwin issued the proclamation which set in motion the government of the Territory of Arizona on Dec. 29, 1863. The statement published in the Review locates Navajo Springs in Navajo County. Mr. Williams' letter says in part: "It is my interest in the correct history of the state that prompts me to offer a correction to 'Arizona Historical Data,' contained in each issue of the Review, which states that Gov. John N. Goodwin set up the territorial government of Arizona at Navajo Springs, 'now in Navajo County.' The facts are that Navajo Springs are about five miles or less from the station of Navajo, on the main line of the A., T. & S. F. Railway, in a northeasterly direction, and south of the Rio Puerco. If you will look at a good map of Arizona you will see that this puts Navajo Springs in about the middle of Apache County." We thank Mr. Williams for calling our attention to that error, and we are glad to make the correction.

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**PIONEERS PASS AWAY**

It becomes our painful duty to record in this number, the passing of a large number of our valued pioneers; those who came when Arizona was in the making, and all trails were beset with perils and hardships.

One by one our trailblazers are passing to the Great Beyond; their work well done—so well in fact that those that come after in safety and comfort little realize that almost every acre of this fair state was won by the blood and tears of the vanishing frontiersmen.

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**Dr. Omar A. Turney.**

Dr. O. A. Turney, internationally known archaeologist and engineer, passed away at a local hospital on December 21. He had been in failing health for some months, but an attack of pneumonia was the immediate cause of death. He was sixty-three years of age.

Dr. Turney, a native of Ohio, had been a resident of Phoenix for more than forty years, coming here in 1888 as assistant engineer on the rebuilding of the Arizona canal dam, and later on the location survey of the Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix Railway. He also served successively in the United States geological survey and in the United States reclamation service.

Dr. Turney was a graduate of Grove City College, Grove City, Pa., and took his doctor's degree at the University of Southern California. Degrees conferred upon Dr. Turney were master of arts, master of science, civil engineer and doctor of philosophy. He was a member of numerous prominent engineering and educational societies.

During his early days in Arizona, as an employe of the government, he became a champion of irrigation, and was one of the principal sponsors of the Roosevelt Dam, and is largely responsible for the name given the dam. To Dr. Turney also goes the credit of naming Squaw Peak, near Phoenix.

For twelve years after leaving the government service Dr. Turney served the cities of Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe and Glendale as city engineer. For many years he was secretary and managing trustee of the Phoenix Public Library. In this, as well as all other projects with which he was connected, he was a painstaking and indefatigable worker.

The ARIZONA HISTORICAL REVIEW feels keenly the loss of Dr. Turney. This magazine has been privileged to publish during the past year a series of articles submitted by him, entitled "Prehistoric Irrigation." The first of these articles appeared in the April, 1929, issue, and the present number contains the concluding one. Dr. Turney gathered the data for these articles over a period of forty-odd years. His map of the ancient canals, a fac-simile of which appeared in the July, 1929, issue, and an account of their magnitude was presented to the Royal Geographic Society of London, and at the request of Sir William Ramsay he was elected a Fellow of the society.

The body of Dr. Turney lay in state in the A. L. Moore Mortuary, Phoenix, from 10 a. m. to 1:30 p. m. on December 23.

Surviving relatives are the widow, Mrs. Viola Turney, who he married in Phoenix in 1895; two sons, Harold M. Turney, professor of engineering and dramatics at a Los Angeles junior college, and Hubert W. Turney, designer for a Los Angeles lumber company; a brother, Col. Hubert J. Turney, prominent Cleveland lawyer: The latter was judge advocate general of the

Second Army in France. Dr. Turney is also survived by two grandsons, Hubert Turney, Third, and Donald Bruce Turney.

The body of Dr. Turney was cremated and the remains scattered over the city "Park of Four Waters," where the heads of four prehistoric canals are being preserved. This park is one of the many monuments to Dr. Turney, as it was through his efforts that it was established. The spot was chosen many years ago by Dr. Turney as his last resting place.

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### William Moeur

William Moeur, a resident of the Salt River Valley for thirty-six years, died at his home in Tempe on Christmas day. He had been in failing health for more than a year.

He was a native of Tennessee, having been born in that state on February 23, 1865. He came to Texas when but ten years of age and lived there for eighteen years, coming to Arizona in 1893. During all his years' residence in Maricopa County he was very actively interested in educational, civic and political affairs and held many public offices. He was a member of the first Phoenix Union High School board and of the Tempe school, being one of the organizers of the latter. He was the chairman of the Maricopa County board of supervisors from the time of statehood until 1915 when he was appointed first state land commissioner. He held this office until January 1, 1921, when he retired from active public service, except that for several years subsequent to 1921 he served as justice of the peace in Tempe. Failing health forced him to give up this office more than a year ago.

Mr. Moeur is survived by his wife, who was Miss Mary Wilson, also of a pioneer Salt River Valley family; four sons, Charles K., of Tempe; W. A., Jr., Sidney B. and J. H., all of Phoenix; two daughters, Mrs. Harry A. Stewart, Phoenix, and Mrs. Jule Henness, Jr., Tempe; one brother, Dr. B. B. Moeur, and one sister, Mrs. L. E. Pafford, both of Tempe.

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### Judge Charles Payne Hicks

Another prominent pioneer to answer the call of the Grim Reaper is Judge C. P. Hicks, who died at his home in Prescott on Christmas Eve, following a short illness of pneumonia. He had lived continuously in Prescott since 1879, having come to that city from Fayette, Missouri, where he was born on June 25, 1858.

Judge Hicks was, during territorial days, probate judge for twenty-three years, until that class of judgeship was abolished. He was a clerk in the state senate during territorial days, and in 1918 was elected as state senator from Yavapai County.

Surviving relatives are the widow, Mrs. Laura A. Hicks; an adopted daughter, Mrs. Violet Binner, of San Francisco, and a stepson, John Rogers, of Los Angeles.

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### David Babbitt

David H. Babbitt, aged 72, president of the Babbitt Brothers Trading Company, of Flagstaff, passed away on November 8 at his home in that city, where he had lived for more than forty years.

Mr. Babbitt was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was the oldest of five brothers. He came to Arizona in 1886 and started the business of which he was the head at the time of his death. He was joined by his brothers, and their business continued to grow and expand until it embraced almost every line of endeavor. The firm of Babbitt Brothers has become widely known for its friendly helpfulness and assistance to many struggling ranchers and stockmen. The founders of this firm are sterling characters; noted for their uprightness.

Mr. Babbitt was a member of the Elks Lodge and Knights of Columbus.

Besides the three brothers, C. J. and William, of Flagstaff, and E. J., of Cincinnati, Mr. Babbitt is survived by three sons, E. D., Ray and Joe, and two daughters, Gertrude and Elaine. All are residents of Flagstaff, the three sons being active members of the great business system of which the father was the head. Mrs. Babbitt died in 1899. One son, David, Jr., president of the Babbitt Motor Company, passed away in Phoenix last July.

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### William Johnson LeBaron

William Johnson LeBaron, pioneer resident of Mesa, where he had lived for forty-five years, passed away in that city on November 19. He had been an invalid for the past ten years, nevertheless, he always maintained an active leadership in all civic and religious affairs. He was mayor of Mesa from 1889 to 1895; and was one of the three original trustees and was one of its city councilmen for many years.

Mr. LeBaron organized Company "E," of the Arizona National Guard, and as its captain took an active part in the strike troubles at the Clifton-Morenci Copper Mines. His skillful handling of either rifle or shotgun in the early days marked him as a sportsman of the first water.

He was a member of the Mormon Church, and served for many years as a member of the Stake presidency. Surviving relatives are the wife, Mrs. Zina LeBaron; a daughter, Mrs. L. L. Gardner, of Mesa, and two sons, D. A., of Mesa, and Edwin M. LeBaron, of Los Angeles.

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### James M. Polhamus

Death claimed James M. Polhamus, sheriff of Yuma County, on November 21, at his home in Yuma. He was but forty-eight years old.

Mr. Polhamus was born in Yuma and was the son of Isaac Polhamus, steamship owner and famous Colorado River pilot of the early days.

Mr. Polhamus first entered politics in 1904 as territorial recorder. At the time of his death he was serving his third term as sheriff. He served eight years as ex-officio clerk of the board of supervisors. He had also been in the mercantile business in Yuma, and was interested in mining in Yuma County and Southern California.

Surviving Mr. Polhamus are the widow and three sons, James, Francis and Milton, three brothers and four sisters.

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### Mrs. Ellen Greer

Mrs. Ellen Greer, or "Grandma Greer," as she was known to the many friends and neighbors whom she had loved and served for so many years, passed away at Holbrook, Arizona, on November 15, at the age of 92. She had been a resident of Arizona for fifty-three years, nearly twenty of them having been spent in Holbrook. She is survived by three daughters and two sons, one of the latter, R. D. Greer, being a leading business man of Holbrook.

Burial took place in St. Johns and the services were attended by many people from all sections of Navajo and Apache counties.

**HERMAN EHRENBERG****In Memorium****ARIZONA DAILY STAR**

February 19, 1880

Herman Ehrenberg was born in Saxony, 1820. He received a liberal education and was placed by his father in the commercial business, but not being contented with the routine duty of the counting room, he ran away and came to the United States in 1835. He had traveled from New York to New Orleans in 1836, in which place he was engaged in making what was then called "locofoco" matches. This business was not gratifying to his tastes, so when the Texas revolution commenced, he enlisted in the "New Orleans Greys" and accompanied them to the seat of war. He was at Fanning's defeat on the Goliad, and was one to draw the black bean and was marched out to be shot. As he had frequently related to me, when the order to fire was given he fell prematurely on the ground, receiving no hurt, then under cover of the smoke he rose and ran for the river. A Mexican officer pursued on horseback and gave him a gash over the forehead with a sword, the scar of which is well remembered by those who knew him. Nevertheless, he escaped by following the river and found some food at an abandoned ranch, where he was later captured by the Mexican troops. On account of his youth and his wounds, General Urras turned him loose and he followed the retreating Texans to San Jacinto where the last battle was fought.

After the recognition of Texan Independence he returned to Germany to perfect his education as a civil engineer; while there he wrote a book in German describing Texas in such enthusiastic terms that it contributed not a little to the German colonization of that state. About 1844 Mr. Ehrenberg returned to the United States and at St. Louis joined a company of emigrants for Oregon, and after crossing the continent to Astoria, he worked at his profession as a civil engineer in surveying lands and towns. In 1846 Mr. Ehrenberg went from Oregon to the Sandwich Islands, and from there he visited Marquesasi, Fijis, Samoans and finally brought up at Tahiti, where he was received with great favor by the then youthful queen, Pomare. Not being satisfied even in this earthly paradise, he crossed the sea to Valparaiso, where he joined the forces called Stevenson's Regiment, destined for the occupation of California. He was for a while with Captain, afterwards General Burton at La Paz, in the peninsula. When the American troops abandoned Lower

California, he accompanied them to upper California and witnessed the transformation of a change of government. From 1849 to 1853 Mr. Ehrenberg was engaged in mining and surveying in California, mostly in the northern part, and laid off a town at the mouth of the Klamath River; coming down the coast he discovered the gold-bearing metallic sands since known as Gold Bluff. In January, 1854, Mr. Ehrenberg joined the writer for a reconnaissance of the then recently acquired territory which is now called Arizona. With a party of five men he examined the country of Sonora from the mouth of the Gulf of California to the Gila River, stopping at the towns of Fuerte, Alamos, Guaymas, Hermosilla, Ures, San Miguel and Altar, passing through the Papaueria where the Fourth of July, 1854, was celebrated by the Americans on their own soil at the Sans-Saida by copious libations of mescal accompanied by a feast of petayahs and milk, much to the delight of the Papago chief, whose name was Tomas. The party rested awhile at Yuma in the balmy month of August, and recreated themselves by surveying that classical village; hence to the cool breezes of San Diego and from there by steamer back to San Francisco.

The writer took the specimens of minerals, maps and information which had been gathered up, and spent the year 1855 in Wilmington, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati and other cities, forming the Sonora Exploring Company, intending to open these treasures to the world when Nevada and Colorado were still dreary wastes and it was not known that the silver belt extended north of the Gila River. Mr. Ehrenberg spent the intervening time in Arizona, and welcomed the company to Tucson in August, 1856, after a weary and dangerous journey from San Antonio to Tucson over a thousand miles in an Indian country. Several Germans of education and intelligence belonged to this company and the winter was passed at Tubac when not in the field of exploration. Mr. Ehrenberg, on account of ill health, was assigned to duty and passed the year 1857 in examining Sonora mines. In 1858 he was in New York with the writer laying this information before capitalists, and even statesmen listened to the silver story of Sonora.

Among other state secrets it may now be told that President Buchanan and his cabinet, at the instigation of powerful capitalists in New York and New England, had agreed to occupy Northern Sonora by the regular army, and submit the matter to Congress afterwards. Ben McCollough was sent out as agent to select the military line, and Robert Rose was sent as consul to Guaymas with an American Flag prepared expressly to hoist

over that interesting seaport, upon receiving the proper orders. But, alas for progress; President Buchanan soon had hot work nearer home than Mexico, and Arizona and Sonora receded into barbarism for nearly twenty years. During the Civil War and for a long time afterward all the patronage of the government and the following favor of the capitalists was contributed to a line far north of Arizona, and none of the pioneers ever received any reward.

After the devastation of Southern Arizona, Ehrenberg engaged in some trivial mining speculations in the northern part of the territory, and in passing to and fro to California was killed at Dos Palms, a station on the Mojave Desert, in the autumn of 1866. The writer slept on a bunk under a ramada in front of the station the night before, but having just been defeated for Congress and going out of the country, was not supposed to have enough money to be worth killing. Ehrenberg slept on the same bunk the night afterwards and was known to have about \$3,500 in gold, with which he was going to buy a mine. There is no doubt in the writer's mind but that he was killed by the station keeper. Thus miserably perished one of the most intelligent men of the early occupation of Arizona. He not only had a wonderful store of knowledge gathered from his extensive travels, but was a ripe scholar in German metaphysics—a philosopher in fact; gifted with many amiable virtues; a man whose contact with the rude world had not destroyed his almost feminine nature. He would have been honored in his own country but he rests in the eternal silence of the desert, and without a tombstone. A little town on the Colorado River perpetuates his name.

The memory of many years faithful companionship and a thousand and one nights' pleasant conversation will excuse this extended memorandum.

Signed—C. D. Poston.

(Note: The above is taken from the files of the ARIZONA DAILY STAR, of February 19, 1880, in the archives of the Munk Library of Arizona, Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, California, and is a splendid tribute to a man who did so much for Arizona and about whom so little is known. Dan R. Williamson, now state historian of Arizona, copied the material in response to repeated requests for information about Mr. Ehrenberg.)

There is a small book by Ehrenberg, of 293 pages, entirely in German, written in Leipzig, 1844, in the Dr. Munk collection of the Southwest Museum. "Rare and never translated into English." A frontispiece says that Ehrenberg became the greatest surveyor, map maker and explorer of the southwest. In this same library there is also a splendid map made by Mr. Ehrenberg in 1855, covering the territory acquired by the Gadsden Treaty and showing the proposed southern or Texas Railroad Route.)