

Newsletter on the gold mining and ranching heritage of Kentucky Camp, AZ

June 2021

PAGE

# COVID and Kentucky Camp

By Mark Doumas

With COVID vaccinations up and infection rates down, we are all hopeful that the global pandemic will soon be a memory!

During the past year, it seems like there were even more visitors at Kentucky Camp than usual. This was a phenomenon reported at many of the public lands across the US: folks getting out of the house but in a socially-distanced way.

If there is anything good to come from the pandemic, maybe this increased connection with our public lands will persist?

The few COVID restrictions at Kentucky Camp have now been lifted:

- No masks are required for people who have been vaccinated
- The rental cabin is available weekdays as well as weekends (Except Thursdays for cleaning and maintenance check.)
- Vault toilets are unlocked

We are entering the hot time of year in southern Arizona. So, if you are planning to visit Kentucky Camp, stay hydrated (there is treated water on site) wear sunscreen and enjoy a healthy visit.

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Irises in bloom at Kentucky Camp – mid-April 2021

## Caretaker Trailer Changes

By Mark Doumas

After many years of faithful service, the caretaker trailer at Kentucky Camp has being retired. We performed numerous repairs on the trailer during the past couple of years but the final straw was an extensive water leak last December. The trailer was unoccupied at the time and the interior was thoroughly soaked. The resulting mold problem was deemed unrepairable by the Forest Service.



A final view of the Kentucky Camp caretaker trailer

We will be taking this opportunity to switch to a different caretaker protocol at the site: caretakers will be required to bring their own trailer/RV and commit to a 2-3 month stay. The Forest Service will be using a different online application tool for prospective caretakers that is more in-line with caretaking on other public lands.

We believe this is a very positive change on several fronts. First, the switch to personal Trailer/RVs via www.volunteer.gov as opposed to our current Passport in Time approach will tap-in to about 10-times the number of site host applicants. (The Forest Service has actually been turningaway folks that want to host in their own RVs.) This new approach is also more consistent with all other public lands agencies (Forest, BLM, Park Service) as well as our sister organization, Brown Canyon Ranch. Finally, this will allow Friends of Kentucky Camp volunteers to shift more of their attention to historic site rehabilitation and interpretation as opposed to trailer maintenance.



Disassembling the old aluminum trailer porch roof.

The old trailer was stripped of all useful contents and then donated to the Elephant Head Volunteer Fire Department in Amado, AZ for use in firefighting practice.

On our work day on May 21, we disassembled and removed the old aluminum trailer porch roof and deck. We also hauled away three pick-up truckloads of miscellaneous debris.



Turkey strolling through camp in May

## In Search of James B. Stetson – Part 3

By John Weiss

This is the third article I've written about James Burgess Stetson and his family's history. (James Stetson was the hydraulic mining engineer who designed the water system at Kentucky Camp -The Santa Rita Water and Mining Company)

In March of this year, a close cousin sent me information about her ancestors, the Brewsters, and how they descended from the Mayflower.

Recently, I was looking at the Stetson genealogical tree that I've built in Ancestry. It turns out, looking up the trees, my own "John Weiss Family Tree" and my "Stetson Family Tree" come together on October 28, 1707, in Duxbury, Mass, with the marriage of Elisha Stetson (b. 1684) and Abigail Brewster (b. 1683). The two families, the Stetsons and the Brewsters lived in and around Kingston, Massachusetts in the 1700s and 1800s. William Stetson (1802-1898), great-grandson of Elisha, was born in Kingston, Mass, and moved to San Francisco sometime in the mid 1880's with his wife Sally Sherman Burgess, maybe part of the Gold Rush?

I was not searching for this connection: in my Stetson family tree, the Brewster surnames just started showing up with the same given names and dates. And there are some very unusual names in these two trees, like: Wrestling Brewster, Patience Brewster, Fear Brewster and Love Brewster. This was encouraging, as it helped confirm things between the trees. Abigail's father was Wrestling Brewster.

Long story short, James Burgess Stetson is my "Sixth cousin two times removed of wife of first cousin one time removed".

Who would have thought!?

184 ELISHA<sup>6</sup> STETSON (*Elisha<sup>5</sup> Stetson, Abigail<sup>4</sup> Brewster,* Wrestling<sup>3</sup>, Love<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>), married at Kingston, Mass., January 15, 1792, OLIVE<sup>6</sup>, daughter of Wrestling<sup>5</sup> BREWSTER (Wrestling<sup>4</sup>, Wrestling<sup>3</sup> above), born at Kingston, August 10, 1768; died there, July 27, 1831. He died at Kingston, March 23, 1837. They lived at Kingston.

Children, born there:

i WILLIAM<sup>7</sup>, b. Apr. 5, 1794; d. July 26, 1800.

433 ii George, b. Aug. 3, 1796.

iii MARTHA SYMMES, b. Feb. 7, 1799; d. Feb. 25, 1802.

iv WILLIAM, b. Feb. 14, 1802; d. at San Francisco, Cal., 1898; m. 1st, ——; 2d, at Kingston, May 13, 1829,

Sample of documentation from Ancestry.com. North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016

#### Membership Renewal

Don't miss out on the fun, the excitement, the Chronicle, and the opportunity to participate in Kentucky Camp's future! Renewing your membership is a simple way to support our ongoing rehabilitation efforts at Kentucky Camp and represents our primary source of funding. Student, Individual and Family memberships are very reasonably priced. If you'd like to give at a more substantial level, consider a Supporting or Contributing membership..... Or, even a Lifetime membership! Remember, Friends of Kentucky Camp is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization: your membership fee may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes.

To see if your membership is current, look at the mailing label on the front of this newsletter. If it says "Renew in June of 21" then your membership has expired and it's time to renew. (If your mailing label says "Renew in June of NA", then you are a lifetime member or have received a courtesy copy.) If your renewal year is in error, contact John Weiss at 520 323-0358 or jweiss25@cox.net.

#### TWO Ways to Renew:

1) Renew online at the Friends of Kentucky Camp website:

http://www.kentuckycamp.org/

Choose "Support Kentucky Camp". Using the online renewal process, you can also choose to have your newsletter delivered electronically versus hard copy.

2) Renew using the traditional mail-in form on the next page.

Did you know that Kentucky Camp has a Facebook Page? Search for us at: @FriendsofKentuckyCamp

We have an email discussion group for Friends of Kentucky Camp where we discuss current events. To join the discussion group, send an email to:

#### FriendsofKentuckyCamp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

If you have changed your email address recently and wondered why you no longer receive discussion group email, you need to resend an email to the above address from your new email account. To unsubscribe, send an email from the email account you want to be removed from the discussion group to:

#### FriendsofKentuckyCamp-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

You don't need to put anything in the subject line or body of the email. Look for a confirmation email after you send the email.... If you don't see one within a few hours, remember to check your spam folder. Additions to the distribution list are screened for spammers!

### IMPORTANT!

If you prefer to renew your membership using the traditional mail-in form, please detach (or copy) this page and return to the Friends of Kentucky Camp asap:

Friends of Kentucky Camp c/o John Weiss 4259 E. Paseo Grande Tucson, AZ 85711

<b>Membership Renewal</b> Enclosed is a check for \$ made payable to Friends of Kentucky Camp for membership through June 2022.				
Please circle:				
Student (\$5) Supporting (\$50)	Individual (\$10) Lifetime (\$200)	Family (\$15)	Contributing (\$25)	
(If a mailing label is on the back side of this and your address has not changed, there is no need to fill this part out.)				
Name:				
Address:				
City, State, Zip:				
Phone:	Email:			

### Friends of Kentucky Camp Mail-in Ballot

The board of directors recommends a "for" vote on this slate of directors. The term for all positions is two years. You must be a paid-up Friends of Kentucky Camp member to vote. If you are a lifetime member and want to avoid the cost of mailing-in a ballot, email jweiss25@cox.net with your "For" or "Against" vote.

Mark Doumas	For	Against
John Weiss	For	Against
Pete Van Cleve	For	Against
Ron Parrish	For	Against
Kathy Makansi	For	Against
	John Weiss Pete Van Cleve Ron Parrish	John WeissForPete Van CleveForRon ParrishFor

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<b>Web Site:</b> http://www.kentuckycamp.org/			Sahuarita Rd	
<b>Facebook:</b> @FriendsofKentuckyCamp			Green Valley Hwy 83 Follow the signs to Kentucky	
<b>Discussion Group:</b> FriendsofKentuckyCamp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com			I-19 Camp Sonoita	
Newsletter S jweiss25@cc	Submissions: px.net		Hwy 82	
<b>Board of Dir</b> President	ectors: Mark Doumas	520 990-8152	Nogales	
Vice Pres. Secretary Treasurer At-Large	Pete Van Cleve John Weiss Ron Parrish Mary Farrell	520 770-8132 520 378-1955 520 323-0358 520 247-7004 520 979-9114	<b>Memberships:</b> Student (\$5) Individual (\$10) Family (\$15) Contributing (\$25) Supporting (\$50) Lifetime (\$200)	
Forest Service Liaison:Chris Schrager520 591-8127		520 591-8127	Friends of Kentucky Camp is a 501 (c) (3) non- profit organization: your membership fee may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes.	