

## Library Ladies, March 2010: Arizona History

Many Prescott Public Library patrons moved here from outside of Arizona, and are now ready to delve into Arizona's rich history. Easy enough, and a timely endeavor with the Arizona Centennial less than two years away. A search of the library catalog ([www.prescottlibrary.info](http://www.prescottlibrary.info)) yields over 1,700 titles on Arizona history, including state and local histories as well as books covering a multitude of specialized topics. Native Arizonans and newcomers alike are sure to find something of interest. Settle down in front of a fire with one of these titles, and let yourself be transported back into Arizona history.

*Founding a Wilderness Capital: Prescott, A.T. 1864*, by Pauline Henson. 1965. Politicians from the east, prospectors, mountain men, Native Americans and military officers all play a role in this chronicle of the founding of Arizona Territory and its capital, Prescott. Readers will recognize the names of many of these characters, as streets and communities were named for them. Henson thoroughly examines the exploration, early history and the first government of the territory in this well documented history. Extensive quotes from letters, diary entries and newspaper articles provide first-hand testimony to the dangers and excitement of this period of Arizona history. --Julie Pavri

*Prescott, a Pictorial History*, by Melissa Ruffner. Grade 6 to Adult. 1981. This book is packed with historical photos and anecdotes, and is a delight to browse. From the early days of exploration and prospecting to statehood and beyond, Ms. Ruffner provides readers with an engaging, accessible look at Prescott history. Famous figures like Buckey O'Neill and Sharlot Hall appear throughout, but some of the most interesting tidbits relate to lesser-known people like Margaret McCormick and John Huguenot Marion. Readers of all ages will enjoy spotting familiar places and revisiting scenes from Prescott's rich history. --Amadee Ricketts

*Arizona in the '50's*, by James H. Tevis. 1954. The '50's in this case is not the 1950's, but the 1850's. This memoir describes the adventures of Captain James Tevis in what would soon become Arizona Territory. Tevis still has descendents in Arizona, some living in the very places he sought water, fought Indians, or befriended and rubbed shoulders with well known, historical personalities of the west, including Cochise, and Kit Carson's brother, Mose. *Arizona* moves along at a nice clip making it a pretty quick read. If you love the history of Arizona, especially Southeast Arizona, this is a must. --Russell Miller

*Irish Arizona* by Janice Ryan Bryson and Kathleen Shappee Wood. 2008. Donning green attire and partaking of corned beef and cabbage are popular on St. Patrick's Day. But are you aware of the richness of Arizona's Irish heritage? If not, you will find *Irish Arizona* to be an intriguing read, filled with stories and photographs of Irish immigrants who made their way from the emerald island to settle within the Arizona Territory. Their contributions played significant roles in the growth of Arizona, and throughout the book, the reader is amazed by the connections of this southwestern state to the land of the shamrock. --Katy Willis