

Arizona Newspapers, 1880-1922: A Centennial Legacy Project

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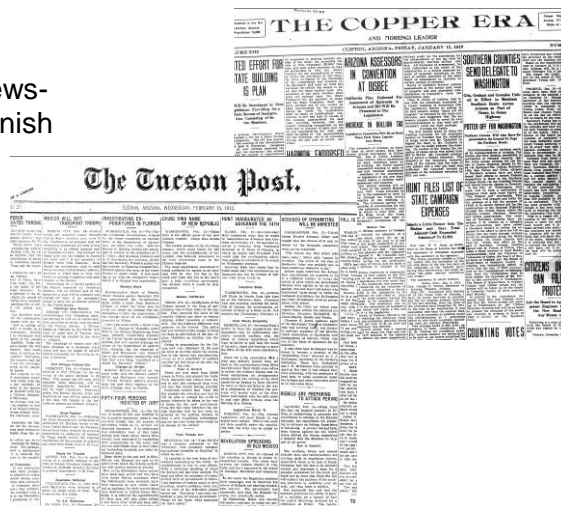
National Digital Newspaper Project and the Library of Congress Arizona Newspapers, 1880-1922: A Centennial Legacy Project

A reading of the newspapers of this era will explain to Arizonans, as they plan for the state's centennial, why Arizona's inclusion in the Union took so long, the voices on either side of the debate and the complex process by which Statehood eventually occurred. Digitized newspapers from throughout the state will also provide information about other significant moments in Arizona history:

- the Indian wars, leading to relocation and today's reservation system
- the development of education and social institutions, such as the University of Arizona in Tucson and normal schools in Tempe and Flagstaff
- border issues with Mexico
- mining and its related labor, ethnic, economic and land-use issues
- the early years of the state's tourism industry, with the first federal protection for the Grand Canyon beginning in 1893, and the work of entrepreneurs like Fred Harvey
- federal presence, such as military camps for the Indian wars, reclamation money for dams, irrigation and agricultural subsidies and;
- the beginnings of Phoenix, incorporated in 1881 with around 1,700 residents and today, the nation's fifth largest city.



The 1859 Arizonian of Tubac holds the honor of the first newspaper published in Arizona. Tubac was an abandoned Spanish and military settlement colonized shortly after the Gadsden Purchase by the Santa Rita Silver Mining Company. In 1859 it was a small village of 150, three-fourths of whom were Mexicans. The four-sheet newspaper led the editor, Sylvester Mowry, to a duel after only twenty issues. Later this newspaper moved to Tucson, but died during the political and social upheaval when Tucson was briefly occupied by Confederate forces from Texas and New Mexico, and later by Union troops from California. Miraculously, the Washington press of this first newspaper survives today at the Arizona Historical Society.



The National Digital Newspaper Project is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities in partnership with the Library of Congress.



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The first newspaper in the small agricultural village of Phoenix was the Salt River Herald, begun in 1878. This paper eventually merged with the Arizona Republican (1890) that today is the Arizona Republic, the state's largest and most influential newspaper. In 1890 it was the first newspaper in Arizona to employ a linotype press.

Other important early newspapers were the Sentinel (1878) in Yuma, the Arizona Citizen (1870) in Tucson, the Arizona Gazette (1880) in Phoenix, the Arizona Enterprise (1881) in Florence, the Arizona Champion (1882) in Flagstaff, the Prescott Morning Courier (1882), and the St. Johns Herald (1885) at the Mormon colony in eastern Arizona.

Tombstone, the eponymous international symbol of the American West, boasted numerous early newspapers, the most famous being the Tombstone Epitaph. Begun in 1880 in a tent, this publication is one the most recognized newspapers in American history. Largely due to film and television exposure, it has literally become an icon of the old west in American pop culture. Digitizing the Tombstone Epitaph will provide wide public access to the real newspaper, not false front Hollywood versions. Searches and hits for this title alone promise to be voluminous.

A sampling of over 100 newspapers to be digitized include:



Bisbee Daily Review	Bisbee	Arizona Daily Orb, 1899-1900 / Bisbee Daily Review 1901-1922
Coconino Sun	Flagstaff	Az. Champion 1883-1891 / Coconino Sun 1891-1895 / Sun Democrat 1895-1897 / Skylight Kicker 1897-1898/Coconino Sun 1898-1922
Arizona Silver Belt	Globe-Miami	Moved to Miami in 1913
Mohave County Miner	Kingman	Combined with Our Mineral Wealth, 1919
Arizona Republican	Phoenix	Merged with the Phoenix Herald 1900, (became Arizona Republic 1930)
Journal Miner	Prescott	Prescott Daily Miner 1880-1881, 1883, 1886-1898, 1900-1912 / Weekly Journal Miner 1912-1922
Graham County Guardian	Safford	
Tombstone Epitaph	Tombstone	
Tucson Daily Citizen	Tucson	Tucson Daily Citizen 1880-1881, 1885-1901 / Tucson Citizen 1901-1922
Arizona Sentinel	Yuma	Arizona Sentinel 1880-1911 / Arizona Sentinel & Yuma Weekly Examiner 1911-1915 / Arizona Sentinel & Yuma Southwest 1915-1916 / Arizona Sentinel 1916-1918 / Yuma Examiner & Arizona Sentinel 1918-1922

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