Join Arizona Pathfinders for a Brown Bag Meeting

October 18, 2018

Stalking the Lieutenant: The 1871 Juh-Cushing Ambush Site

Arizona Pathfinders’ Vice President
Dr. Deni Seymour, Speaker

6:00pm: Arizona History Museum Auditorium
949 East Second Street, Tucson AZ

Following Apache footprints across burnt-over terrain, Lt. Howard Cushing met his fate with history in May 1871.

Unbeknownst to this celebrated officer, renowned for his effectiveness and tenacity in campaigning against the Apache, his route was shadowed, even choreographed by the legendary Apache leader Juh and his warriors.

Primary documents tell us that Lt. Cushing fell with two others at this quintuple Medals of Honor site in Arizona Territory, but until now the location has been obscured by time and the seeming clarity of narrative accounts of survivors and a recovery team.

Aided by understandings of Apache landscape use and ambush behavior learned from archaeological research, these accounts take on fresh meaning, providing a clear association between historical accounts and the on-the-ground location.

New perspectives on Apache tactics and battlefield organization result from examination of assumptions we bring to our interpretation of narrative accounts, battlefield behavior, landscape references and weapons in use at the time. This battle location has been identified, providing fresh new information on this well-known skirmish from the Apache Wars.
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This will be the first full-length presentation of this discovery. A version of this talk given at the AZ History Convention was awarded the Goldwater award (Best Convention Paper Overall) and Bufkin award (Best Territorial Period Paper) from the Arizona History Convention.

For nearly 30 years she has studied the ancestral Apache, Sobaipuri-O’odham, and lesser-known mobile groups (Jano, Jocome, Manso, Suma, and Jumano) who were present at the same time. She has excavated two Spanish-period presidios (Santa Cruz de Terrenate and Tubac), numerous Kino-period mission sites, and several indigenous sites.

Dr. Seymour works with indigenous groups in reconnecting with their heritage and is rewriting the history of the pre-Spanish and colonial period southern Southwest. She has published extensively on these groups and these periods, with more than 100 publications in refereed journals, edited volumes, and popular venues and has served as guest editor for journals. She has also authored six scholarly books and has two more underway.

This is a Brown Bag meeting. Pathfinders’ Board Members will provide coffee and dessert. This meeting is free and open to the public. A special raffle of an item from the excavation will be held.

Enjoy free parking at the Arizona Historical Society parking lot, one block West of the AHS at the corner of Euclid and Second Street. Enter from Second Street. Drive straight in.

For more information please e-mail us at azpathfindersahs@gmail.com or check our website.