



SCOTTSDALE
Historical
SOCIETY

Little Red Schoolhouse

GUIDE TO OBJECTS IN THE FARM KITCHEN



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In Appreciation ...

The International Questers and the Ho Ho Kam Chapter

Many of objects throughout the Little Red Schoolhouse are here because of the dedicated and generous efforts of the **Questers**, an international, nonprofit organization dedicated to conservation, preservation, research and education about historical objects and landmarks. The Questers help historical museums with grants to acquire, preserve and restore historical artifacts, existing memorials, historic buildings, and landmarks. (See <https://www.questers1944.org/about.html>)

Arizona has 28 Questers chapters under a statewide umbrella organization. Our local chapter is, **Ho-Ho-Kams #622**, organized in 1973 under the leadership of Mrs. Harry (Marge) Magill. The chapter is named for the ancient Hohokam peoples who occupied much of south-central Arizona from Flagstaff south to the Mexican border. They were peaceful, agriculturally oriented and developed one of the world's earliest and most sophisticated irrigation systems – until they disappeared from the area in the late 1400s.

One member of the chapter, Lois Newton, is a charter member. Each chapter has a Preservation and Restoration project. and the **Little Red Schoolhouse** was chosen as the Ho-Ho-Kams' project. Funds raised from events, grants and member contributions were used to acquire items for the museum and to fund scholarships.

A number of **Scottsdale Historical Society** board members are also Questers, including Sandi Dimitro and Janet Larkin. Advisory SHS Board members Lois McFarland and Mignon Trice are Questers as well. Marion Saba, another Advisory Board member, along with Linda Starr, a Quester, produced brunch and fashion shows of old-fashioned clothing with the clothing borrowed from people across Scottsdale, and many of these clothes were then donated to the **Little Red Schoolhouse**.

Former board members who are Questers include, Judy Belsher, Mary Briguglio, and Margaret Overstreet.

A Typical Scottsdale Tent Cottage Kitchen



In Scottsdale's early days in the late 1800s, many homes had a "tent cottage kitchen" like the one in this exhibit. The kitchen was a ramada built separately from the house to reduce the risk of fire destroying the home. The upper walls were made of canvas and could easily be rolled up, as the exhibit depicts, to keep the kitchen cooler on hot days. The lower walls here are typical and covered with a high wainscot, stained lightly. In the early days, they might be painted a soft dove grey, a tint that wore well and cleaned easily. Floors were made of either wood, painted or stained, or linoleum.

According to local historian Joan Fudala, the inspiration for the tent homes came from the Native American community. When chaplain Winfield Scott was building a home for himself and wife Helen in 1888, members of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community showed him and other settlers the best materials and design to use. Despite settlers' precautions, fires were common. The Scotts' home burned down on Christmas Day 1895, but they rebuilt on the northeast corner of what is now Scottsdale and Indian School Roads.

Legend



1. Farm Kitchen Table



The kitchen was the heart of the farmhouse, a cozy room used for not only for cooking, baking and eating, but also for sewing, homework and other daily activities.

Table. The kitchen table here features fold-down leaves to accommodate guests or provide a bigger work area.

The table, stove and pie safe were purchased for the museum with a grant from the International Questers Organization, Ho Ho Kam Chapter (source: Scottsdale Historical Society newsletter, September 1994).

2. Stove



Meals were cooked in stoves like this **Peggy Washington Wood Burning Cooking Stove**. These stoves were made by the Gray and Dudley Co. of Nashville, TN. This stove was donated to the Museum by the Questers in 1994.

Stove. The stove burned hard or soft coal, wood, or anything else that was combustible (even “cow pies,” a resident recalled). It not only cooked meals, it also boiled water and kept the room warm on cooler nights and mornings.

Utensils. Cooking utensils were mostly made of cast iron. The kettles were of granite ware and porcelain lined, as were many pots and pans. Tin ware was also popular, and the seamless models were considered the best.

Worktable. Unlike today’s homes, there’s no “kitchen counter.” To keep the main table in good condition for eating, food was often prepared and chores done on the walnut worktable located to the right of the stove. The tabletop is flush with the legs so it can be pushed against the wall. It was used primarily to knead bread, roll out pie crusts, and prepare food for cooking. Meat grinders and sausage stuffers could be attached to the table. A pan of hot water might be set on the table to wash dishes. If there was a sink, it might be made of iron, soapstone, granite or crockery, depending on the needs and preferences of the housekeeper.

The stove was purchased for the museum with a grant from the International Questers Organization, Ho Ho Kam Chapter (source: Scottsdale Historical Society newsletter, September 1994).

3. Coffee Mill and Food Grinder



No percolator or coffee pods here: the red object is a commercial coffee mill.

Coffee was sold in bulk and each home had its own grinder. Besides coffee, grinders were used to grind nutmeg, corn for cornmeal, and wheat for flour.

Below are common farm kitchen utensils, including a cast iron pot and flour mill. Many of the kitchen utensils in the Museum were donated by Marcia Shaulis of Scottsdale in June 1999.



4. Mural of View from Scott Farmhouse



This mural depicts what Winfield and Helen Scott might have seen from their farmhouse, surrounded by their 640-acre property. The mural was painted thanks to a grant from the Arizona State Questers, Ho Ho Kam Chapter.

Scotts' home. The photos below are from the Historical Society's digital collection. At left is the original house on the northeast corner of Indian School Road and Scottsdale Road. On the right is the replacement house built after the fire of 1895. The Scott family owned it until about 1910. It's no longer there -- Charles Miller bought the property and built a new house in 1915.



5. Pottery



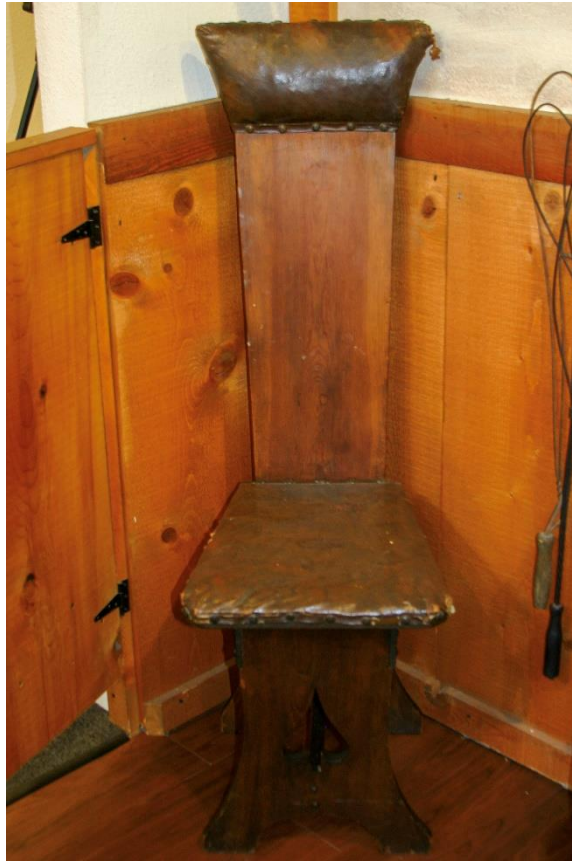
Farmers relied on stoneware crocks and jugs like these for food and beverage storage.

The stoneware on the left bears the mark of Red Wing Pottery. The company was started in 1877 in Red Wing, Minnesota where pottery making was practiced by European immigrants since the Civil War. In 1861 a German immigrant named John Paul discovered a rich pocket of clay on the land that he intended to farm in Red Wing. A potter by trade, he used this clay to make the first Red Wing stoneware.

With changing times, and especially the invention of the refrigerator, the old stoneware crocks and jugs were no longer needed. In 1913 the first refrigerators were invented for home use, although the cost was out of the reach for most people (one 1922 refrigerator cost \$714, compared to \$450 for a Model-T Ford). At this point, Red Wing Union Stoneware Company began producing flower pots and vases, and later luncheon and dinnerware as well as a wide variety of art pottery. In 1936 the name was changed to Red Wing Potteries. (<https://www.redwingstoneware.com/our-history/our-history/>, accessed March 2020.)

The stoneware on the right bears the mark of Marshall Pottery, Marshall, Texas. It was founded in 1895 but stopped making stoneware in 2015. (<https://marshallpottery.com/>, accessed March 20, 2020)

6. Tall Chair



This chair adorned the home of an early Scottsdale family.

A handwritten inscription under the seat says:

“Made by Alvin Brown, 1912-1913

Property of Gene A. Brown Pennington Jones, 1971”

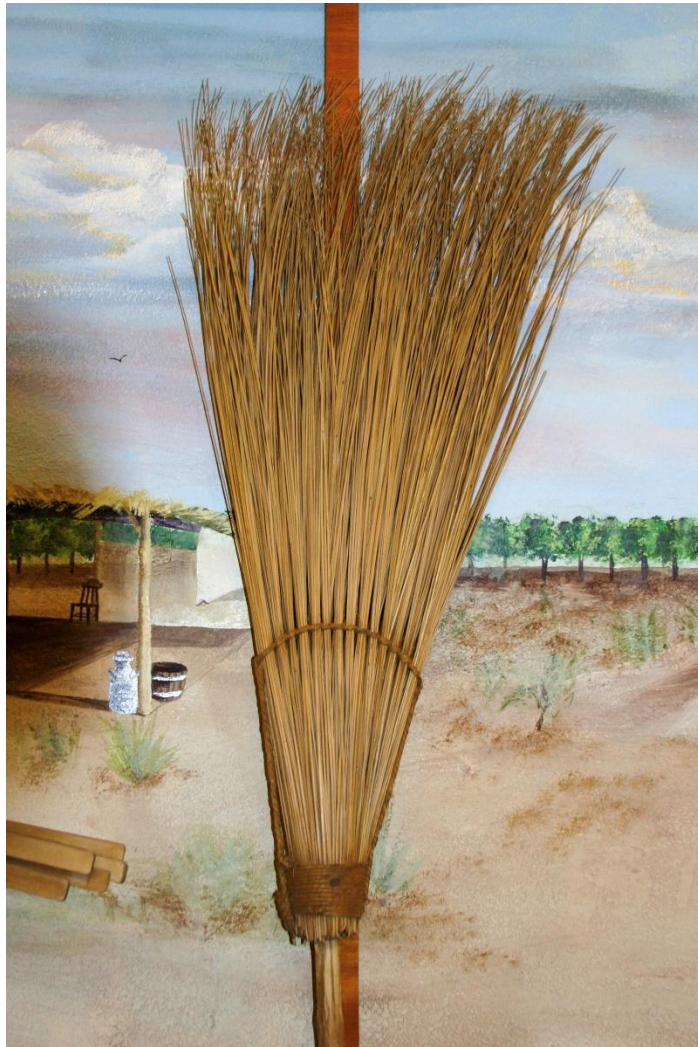
7. Clothes Drying Hanger



Farmhouses often had umbrella-style drying racks like this one.

They made good use of limited space and might have hung in the tent kitchen/laundry room to take advantage of the dry Arizona air.

8. Broom



Brooms like this one might be ordered from a catalog or bought in a store, but often they were made in local factories or right on the farm from “broomcorn.”

Broomcorn is a sorghum plant like sweet corn. According to Living History Farms in Urbandale, Iowa, “Broomcorn is kind of like spaghetti, it breaks easily when it is dry and bends when it is wet.” Once the broomcorn was soaked enough to bend, it was placed in a binding machine (also called a kicker), wrapped under a wire and inserted into a handle. (<https://www.lhf.org/2015/10/from-field-to-factory-broom-making/>, accessed March 20, 2020).

9. Sewing Machine



In Scottsdale's early days, many garments were made and mended at home on famed Singer sewing machines like this one. Company founder Isaac Merritt Singer filed his sewing machine patent in 1851. In 1855, the Singer brand was awarded first prize at the World's Fair in Paris. Singer became the largest selling brand of sewing machines in the world. (Singer website, <https://www.singer.com/history>, accessed March 20, 2020).

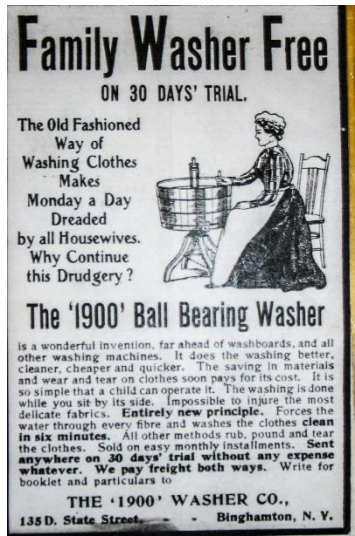
The Museum's treadle-powered Singer bears serial number G346 1084, indicating it was one of 50,000 with an "allotment" date of March 1910.

(http://ismacs.net/singer_sewing_machine_company/serial-numbers/singer-g-series-serial-numbers.html, accessed June 9, 2020).

The Scott's home may have had a Singer sewing machine made a bit before this Model G.

It was donated by Dorothy L. Taylor of Scottsdale in May 2001.

10. Clothes Washers



Washing clothes entailed manual labor in Scottsdale's early days. The Museum's washer is one of the earliest made by Maytag in 1906 or 1907. It was donated in 2000 by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Davis of Scottsdale. Maytag's founder, Frederick L. Maytag, was a German immigrant who came to Iowa as a farm boy and eventually founded a company that made farm equipment. Making clothes washers was intended as a sideline to keep revenues flowing during seasonal slumps in farm business.

The Museum's Maytag may be a 1907 'Pastime' model. The Pastime had a wooden tub with a hand crank that turned an inside dolly with pegs, which, in turn, pulled the clothes through the water and against the corrugated tub sides. In 1911, Maytag introduced its first electric clothes washer. (<https://www.gasenginemagazine.com/farm-life/a-brief-history-of-maytag>, accessed June 9, 2020)

The advertisement (above photo, left) is for another common washer, the "1900 Ball Bearing Washer." Like the Maytag, it was a labor saver in its time, claiming to wash clothes thoroughly in six minutes. It was made in Binghamton, NY,

Advertisements of the time promised to send customers the ball bearing washer for a 30-day free trial, with no deposit. Ads were filled with testimonials from reportedly thrilled customers like Mrs. R.F. Reynolds of Wheeler, SD:

"I am more than pleased with the 1900 washer. Last week my mother, an old lady of 81 years, helped me do my washing. She sat on a chair and did a large, 2-weeks wash with ease, and as she said, without even perspiring, and it was 90 in the shade."

Despite many testimonials like this one, the ads never mention the price of the washer.

11. Pie Safe and Cold Food Storage Cabinet



These two cabinets were used for food storage. The larger unit is a “pie safe” is made of wood with tin panels in the doors. It was used primarily to cool pies, breads and other baked goods. The tin panels are perforated to enable air to circulate while keeping flies and dust off the food.

The drawer on top was used to store kitchen towels or cooking utensils. Because storage space was at a premium, large items were stored on top of the safe and even underneath. It was purchased for the museum with a grant from the International Questers Organization, Ho Ho Kam Chapter (source: Scottsdale Historical Society newsletter, September 1994).

The smaller cabinet to the left comes from a long-time Scottsdale family. A plaque on the top reads:

“Lester and Labuela Mowry, Golden Anniversary, 1936-1986”

12. Clock



We do not know much about this pretty clock.

It appears to be from the turn-of-the-century and is made of mahogany.

13. Lantern



Like the clock, we believe the lantern dates from the late 19th or early 20th century.

14. Child's Highchair



The wooden highchair was made around 1896. The wood tray is hinged on one side and there is a latch underneath the other side.

The tray is not adjustable but it lifts up so the baby can be placed in the seat.

The highchair was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Davis of Scottsdale in February 2000.

15. Cast Iron Boot Jack Beetle



After a long day working on the farm, early Scottsdale residents might have used a boot jack like this one.

They would slide the heel of the boot between the beetle's antenna and yank off the boot, without bending down or getting dirty.

Rug and Rug Beaters (not numbered)



Rug. The rug on the floor is hand-braided using various scraps of fabric and discarded woolens. These small, rag rugs offered a comfortable place for the cook or dishwasher to stand at the stove or sink. Most women made their own rugs, but inexpensive rugs were sold by travelling salesmen.

On the wall to the left are a pair of “rug beaters” which were used to “beat” the dirt and dust off the handmade rug.

Bottles and Tins (not numbered)



These vintage bottles and tins (far right wall opposite stove) were donated by Marcia Shaulis of Scottsdale in June 1999.