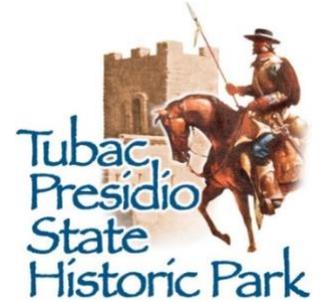


## Historical Scavenger Hunt: Multiple Perspectives and Interpreting History

The following activity is suggested to engage the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade scholar in learning the importance of Southwest Arizona and how history can be found throughout their studies in many subjects. It takes into account the 2018 Arizona Standards in its design.



Suggested time – Class 40 minutes

### Objectives –

- Students will gather multiple perspectives about a subject relevant to southwestern history.
- Students will interpret the evidence they have discovered.

### Materials –

Each Student will need:

Read the exercise introduction and follow the steps to gather material about a historical subject.

Paper and pen to make notes from the material and write their interpretation.

### Instructions –

“History” can be defined as the interpretation of change over time. Historians look at documents, archaeological records, oral histories, newspapers, and any other evidence of an event to determine why it is important and how to present it. Sometimes there is a lot of evidence, and sometimes there is not much to discover.

In this exercise, the student will look at documents, make notes from those documents, and then write their version of the event. In this exercise the conflict between Edward Cross, newspaper editor and Sylvester Mowry, Territorial representative will be examined.

Read the required articles to get a feeling about both men. Take notes as you read. Then write a few paragraphs about

- why the argument between them existed,
- what they did about it, and
- how the issue was resolved.
- Was there any action taken because of the event?
- Finally, does this event, which took place in the news, remind you of any events in the news today?

An exhibit about the duel can be found in the Tubac Presidio State Historic Park museum. It will give you the museum curator's interpretation of the event and show you a version of the Burnside Carbines used in the duel.

Required reading –

To read about Sylvester Mowry and his hopes for Arizona use the link to the July 14, 1859 edition of the *Weekly Arizonian*, column 1 at the top and for the only, brief, local account of the duel, column 3 at the very bottom. If you click on the page you can enlarge it so it is easier to read.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82014067/1859-07-14/ed-1/seq-2/>

For information about Edward Cross, editor

<http://abbymullen.org/tag/edward-e-cross/>

For information about Sylvester Mowry, Territorial representative

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sylvester\\_Mowry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sylvester_Mowry)

To read the *Weekly Arizonian* newspaper see:

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82014067/>

Further original documents by Sylvester Mowry about Arizona, see

<https://archive.org/details/geographyresourc00mowr>

After you have done the assignment you can read the Tubac Presidio State Historic Park curator's interpretation of the argument to see how your interpretation compare to theirs. Read the Dual of Honor in Tubac page.

## A Duel of Honor in Tubac

Edward Cross, editor of the Weekly Arizonian, used the very press that is in the museum print shop today. Cross, a Unionist, was a flawed man with a short temper, and a strong sense of honor. He had little patience for those with whom he disagreed.

Sylvester Mowry, a sympathizer with the slave cause, was a local mine owner and had named a town after himself. He was an egotistical self-promoter with a strong self-interest in achieving territorial status for the area of Arizona.

Mowry used political connections to achieve his goals, and Cross used the nation's press to accuse Mowry of "fake news," inflating the population and prosperity of the Arizona area. Their heated criticisms of each other escalated even as the summer temperature increased. Mowry considered his reputation was ruined. He went to Tubac.

On July 8, 1859, Mowry challenged Cross to a duel, using the latest in firearms, the Burnside Carbine. At 40 paces, or about 120 feet, the length of the museum hallway, each man fired three shots without injuring his opponent. On the fourth try, Mowry's carbine misfired. The formal rules of dueling required Mowry to get his shot.

Cross laid his carbine aside and folded his arms across his chest. Mowry aimed, but then fired skyward, declaring honor satisfied. The two men shook hands and all the citizens of Tubac participated in the consumption of 42-gallons of prime Monongahela whiskey.