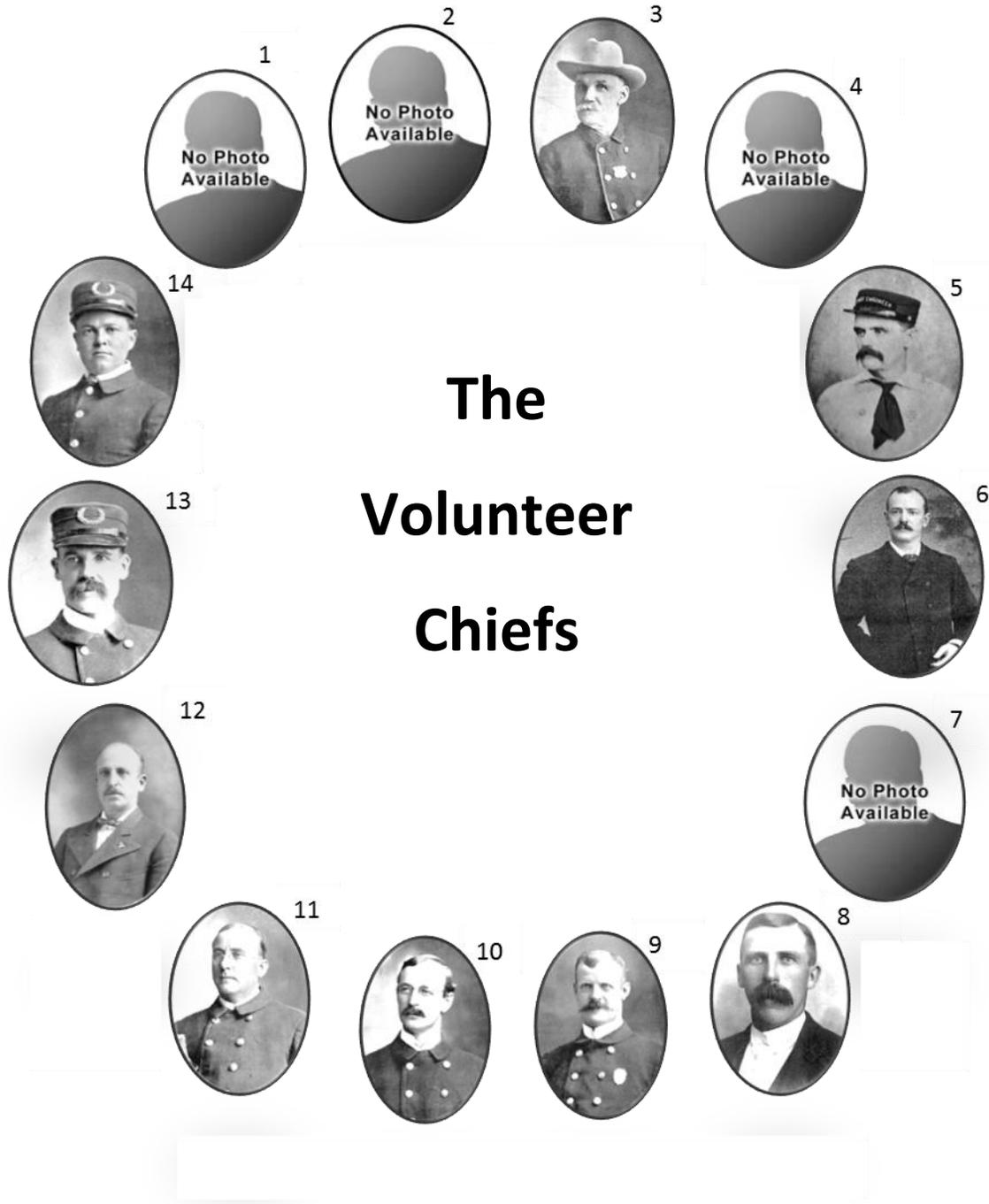


Tucson Fire Department



The Volunteer Chiefs

Al Ring

Bob Ring

The Volunteer Chiefs

Fourteen different individuals, many of them among Tucson's most prominent citizens, served as volunteer Chiefs of the TFD during the years from 1881 to 1915, before the TFD became a fully-paid fire department. Six of the fourteen Chiefs were previously unidentified in Department records.

This is the story of the volunteer Chiefs who served the TFD from 1881 to 1915. For perspective on what was happening in Tucson and with the TFD during this period, please read the previous articles in the "Reflections" series.

Identifying the Chiefs

Identifying all of the Chiefs that served the volunteer TFD was a multi-year intensive research project. Data sources included period newspapers, chiefly the *Tucson Daily Citizen* and the *Arizona Weekly Citizen*; Federal Census Records; the Arizona Business Directory; the Tucson Directory; court records; marriage records; the voter register; cemetery records; family letters; and of course TFD records, including member rosters and previous histories. The increased availability of some of these records in digitized format, accessible online, made the project possible.

Perhaps the most important resource for this particular effort were the hand written minutes of every single meeting of Tucson's Common Council during the volunteer TFD period. These minutes documented every decision made by the Common Council, including the naming of new TFD chiefs. The Greater Tucson Fire Foundation had these minutes digitized and made available to researchers on this website. A painstaking review of this material led to identifying six previously unknown fire Chiefs and confirmed the correct spelling of the names of two known Chiefs.

Volunteer Chiefs

The 14 volunteer Chiefs of the Tucson Fire Department are listed in the accompanying table. The six newly identified Chiefs are identified by the comment "**NEW**" in the table. Jack Boleyn spelled his name several different ways over his lifetime; we have listed the spelling he used from the start of his second term as Chief until his death. The spelling of the name of Chief No. 5 has been corrected from "Encinas" to "Innes."

The question marks "?" in the table represent birth and death information that we have been unable to find so far. And unfortunately, we have yet to find photographs for Chiefs Baird, Hallahan, Gutsch, and Hart.

The volunteer Chiefs were unpaid and had to earn a living while managing the Department. The table notes the variety of their occupations while serving as Chief of the TFD.

The Volunteer Chiefs of the Tucson Fire Department.

No.	Term as Chief	Name	Occupation while Chief	Born	Died	Time as Chief	Comments
1	6/1881-9/1882	Sam Baird	Shoe Store Clerk	1847 Canada	1891 Tucson	15 mo	NEW
2	9/1882-8/1883	Thomas Hallahan	Palace Hotel Clerk	? ?	? ?	11 mo	NEW
3	8/1883-6/1884	Jack Boleyn	Hauling Biz Owner	1842 New York	1910 Tucson	10 mo	1 st Term
4	7/1884-7/1885	Harry Gutsch	Machinist	1853 Germany	? ?	12 mo	NEW
5	7/1885-1/1886	John Innes	Soda Works Proprietor	1850 Mexico	1892 Los Angeles	6 mo	
6	2/1886-8/1886	Jack Blinkhorn	Mgr. Union Park Assoc.	? ?	? ?	6 mo	NEW
7	8/1886-11/1887	John Hart	Saloon Keeper	1853 ?	1893 Tucson	15 mo	NEW
8	11/1887-1/1888	William Reid	Opera House Manager, Councilman	1849 Scotland	1922 Tucson	2 mo	NEW
3a	1/1888-9/1898	Jack Boleyn	Hauling Biz Owner	1842 New York	1910 Tucson	10 yrs, 8 mo	2 nd Term
9	10/1898-1902	Frank Russell	Head Tucson Electric Co., Hardware Store Owner, Councilman	1863 England	1923 Tucson	4 yrs, 2 mo	1 st Term
10	1903	George Smith	Tailor	1870 England	1937 Tucson	1 yr	
11	1904	Henry Melliush	Jewelry Store Proprietor, Optician	1870 Kansas	1911 Tucson	1 yr	
9a	1905	Frank Russell	Head Tucson Electric Co., Hardware Store Owner	1863 England	1923 Tucson	1 yr	2 nd Term
12	1906-1908	George Scholefield	Rancher, Cattle Inspector	1860 New York	1942 Tucson	3 yrs	
13	1909	Sam Barkley	Hay & Grain Biz Owner	1866 Tennessee	1926 Phoenix	1 yr	
14	1910-1915	Frank Ganz	Plumbing Biz Owner	1883 Tucson	1961 Tucson	6 yrs	

The TFD began as Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 from June 1881 to May 1882 and then the Tucson Volunteer Fire Association from June 1882 to May 1883, when the TFD was formally authorized in a revised city charter. Chief No. 1, Sam Baird, led Hook & Ladder Company No. 1, and Chief No. 2, Thomas Hallahan led The Tucson Volunteer Fire Association. Jack Boleyn was foreman of both these early organizations before taking over as Chief of the Tucson Fire Department in August 1883.¹

The two forerunner organizations of the TFD were guided administratively by an executive group that included the positions of “President” and “Vice President.” The revised city charter of May 1883 confirmed that Tucson would be governed by a Mayor and a six-person Common Council, with three Council members assigned to a Fire Committee to oversee TFD operations. TFD officers, including the Chief and Assistant Chief, were usually elected annually by TFD members and approved by the Common Council.

The first eight Chiefs, through January 1888, typically served terms of a few months in length, with mid-year elections the norm. From 1888 on, annual elections occurred in December or January of each year, with the length of the terms for Chiefs extending to multiple years in some cases. The longest total service as volunteer Chief was 11 ½ years for Jack Boleyn (in two terms), six years for Frank Ganz, and five years, two months for Frank Russell (two terms).

Frank Ganz was the last volunteer, unpaid Chief of the TFD. Since 1900 the TFD had been a combination Department, gradually transitioning to an all-paid firefighter Department. In 1910 the Mayor and Common Council passed Ordinance 326 which provided for a paid Fire Marshal to “have entire charge of the Fire Department.” Thomas Conlon, Water Works Superintendent, was appointed to this position. The Fire Marshal job quickly evolved into a paid Fire Chief position; thus Conlon became the first paid Chief of the TFD in April 1910. In January 1911 Harry Parker, TFD Driver, took over as the second paid Chief. Perhaps to assuage hurt feelings, from April 1910 through 1915 when the volunteer organization disbanded, the TFD retained Frank Ganz as volunteer Chief, and for that period, the TFD actually had two Chiefs.²

Biographies

Here is some additional information on the volunteer Chiefs. Some of it is disappointingly sketchy and incomplete, reflecting the scarcity of source material.

1 Sam Baird (6/1881-9/1882) NEW - No Photo Available. Canada-born Sam Baird was a shoe clerk with the Leo Goldschmidt Company during his service as Chief Engineer of Tucson Hook & Ladder Company No. 1. While he was Chief, the first fire alarm boxes were installed around town and a fire alarm bell was hung in a newly constructed two-story tower in the center of town. After his term as Chief, Baird remained with the fire department until 1886, serving as an Assistant Chief and a firefighter. In 1886 he opened a funeral parlor on Main Street and was elected to the position of Pima County Coroner. Baird

¹ See “Reflections” article, “The First Twenty Years.”

² See “Reflections” article, “Early 20th Century: 1900-1915.”

was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen (AOUW), one of the first fraternal benefit societies.

(Source for **NEW** Chief: June 4, 1882 *Tucson Daily Citizen* refers to Sam Baird as Chief; we inferred that Baird was Chief from the start in June 1881)

2 Thomas Hallahan (9/1882-8/1883) NEW - No Photo Available. Thomas Hallahan was a member of the fire department from its beginning in 1881. While he was Chief, the first fire station was built on North Church Avenue and the original alarm bell was resettled in a new tower there. He was Chief when water was first delivered to fire hydrants in the downtown area in city mains. Also, Tucson purchased its first firefighting equipment, two hose carts. Meanwhile, to earn a living, Hallahan was clerking at the Palace Hotel. He remained with the fire department following his service as Chief, serving as Steward until 1884. Hallahan was also appointed as City Jailor by the Common Council. The record of Thomas Hallahan pretty much disappears at this point. He is listed as a Tombstone resident in 1894 and as a mining expert in Phoenix in 1895.



Thomas Hallahan clerked at the Palace Hotel during his term as TFD Chief. (Courtesy of Carleton E. Watkins, 1880)

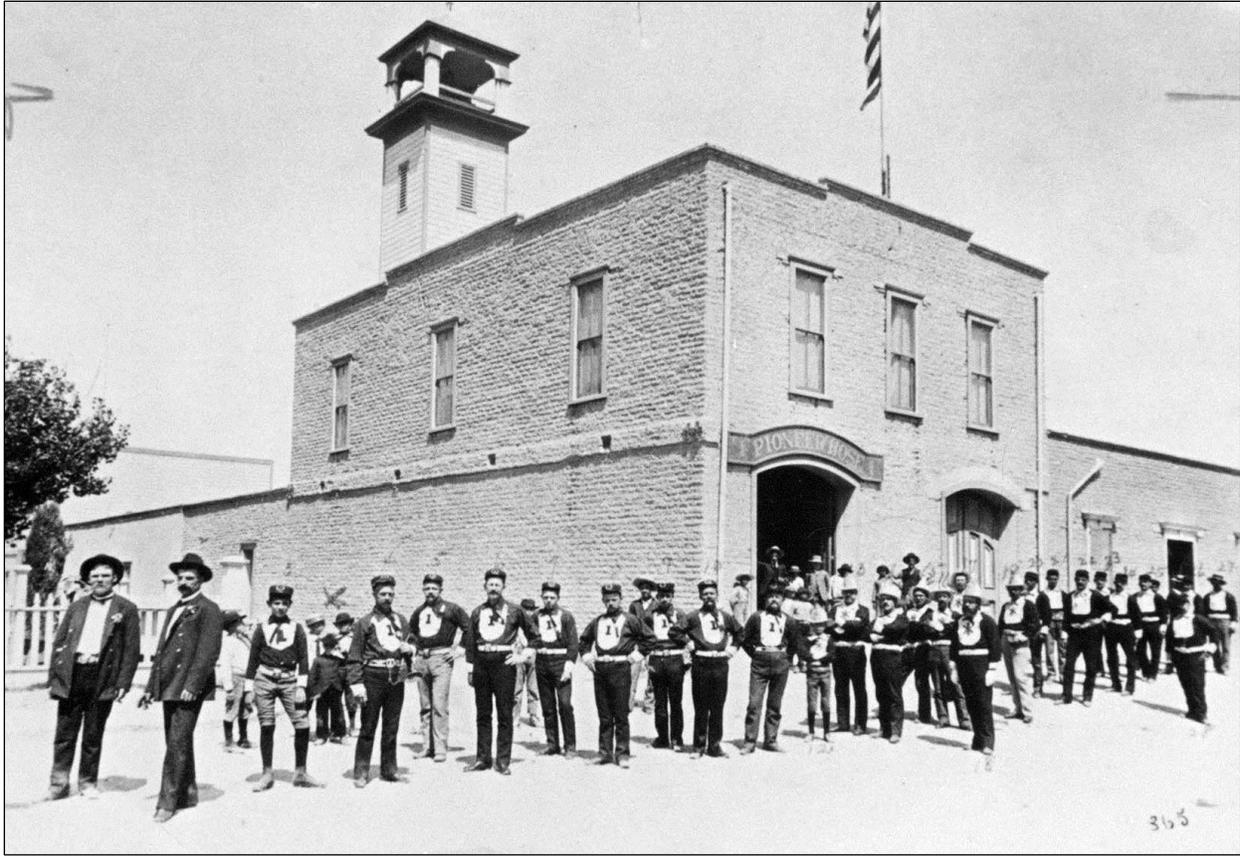
(Source for **NEW** Chief: September 18, 1882 *Tucson Daily Citizen* refers to Hallahan as newly elected Chief)



3 Jack Boleyn (8/1883-6/1884 and 1/1888-1898). Jack Boleyn was both the longest serving volunteer TFD Chief and the most well-known.³ Following an earlier career as a sailor on the Great Lakes and odd jobs in California, Boleyn came to Tucson in 1879, where he started a successful wagon hauling business that lasted 30 years. He helped organize the volunteer Tucson Fire Department and served two terms as Chief. Between terms as Chief, Boleyn remained with the TFD as a foreman and firefighter. He also became one of the most prominent men in city affairs.

As TFD Chief, Jack Boleyn presided over the initial operation of Tucson's first fire station and acquisition of a hand-drawn chemical engine apparatus. He was an early advocate and supporter of the need for training of firefighters, effective fire alarm systems, and improved water delivery systems. He managed a Department with an average membership of 20 volunteers in his first term and 50-60 volunteers in his second term.

³ For the complete story of Jack Boleyn, see the previous "Reflections" article, "The Incredible Life of Jack Boleyn."



TFD members pose in front of their new fire station on Church Street in 1883. Chief Jack Boleyn is standing at the far left of the group. (Courtesy of the TFD)

During Boleyn's terms as Chief, the TFD fought tens of fires, most in Tucson's more crowded, commercial, central downtown area. Local newspapers covered the fires in detail; an oft-repeated theme from many articles was, "The fire company fought the flames with great determination, and kept it from spreading to the adjacent properties."

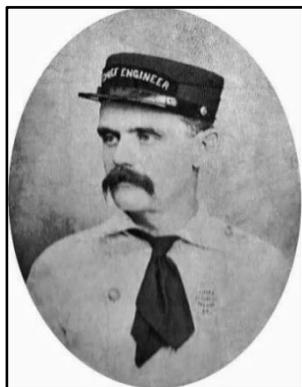
After his retirement as Chief in 1898, he served intermittently as a volunteer firefighter over the next twelve years. In 1908, when Tucson took possession of its newest, most significant firefighting apparatus to date, a steam-powered pumper drawn by three horses, called a Nott Steamer, the TFD honored its popular former Chief by affectionately naming the machine the "Jack Boleyn."

On November 17, 1910, still volunteering his services at age 68, Boleyn was helping fight a fire at Goldring's Furniture Store on East Congress. He was working inside the building when part of the roof fell in and a heavy timber struck him across his stomach, causing internal injuries. At the same time a large quantity of boiling water from a rooftop tank fell with the roof, scalding Boleyn from the waist down. Boleyn died from his injuries the next day.

4 Harry Gutsch (7/1884-7/1885) NEW - No Photo Available. Germany-born Harry Gutsch worked as a machinist in Tucson in 1880 and was Vice President of the Tucson Volunteer Fire Association in 1882.

While he was Chief Engineer he earned a living as a barkeeper at the Elite Saloon on Camp Street. Harry Gutsch managed the TFD in fighting two major fires during his term as Chief, the Crescent Restaurant at Congress and Church Streets, and the Joseph Sresovich Grocery at Congress and Mesilla. After his term as Chief, Gutsch remained with the TFD as a firefighter until 1886. Harry Gutsch is listed in the Los Angeles, California Directory and voting and marriage documents there from 1887 to 1892, when he disappears from the records.

(Source for **NEW** Chief: July 11, 1884 Common Council minutes refer to newly elected Chief Gutsch)



5 John Innes (7/1885-1/1886). Mexico-born John Innes' occupation in Tucson in the Federal Census of 1880 was listed as "soda works." He was associated the Tucson Volunteer Fire Association in 1882 and 1883, serving as both Vice President and President. As Chief, Innes led the TFD in fighting a major fire at the White House Dry Goods Store at Main and Congress Streets. During his short six-month service as Chief of the TFD, Innes was listed in the Tucson Directory as both the proprietor of Pioneer Soda Works on Stone Avenue and a clerk at the Palace Hotel on Meyer Street. After resigning from his term as Chief, he remained with the TFD through 1886, serving as Steward. Like Harry Gutsch, John Innes shows up in Los Angeles, California directories and voter registers in 1888 and 1890 before his death there in 1892.



6 Jack Blinkhorn (2/1886-8/1886) NEW. We know very little about Jack Blinkhorn. After Chief Innes' resignation in mid-term, the Common Council appointed Jack Blinkhorn as Chief of the TFD. Following his service as Chief, he appears in TFD rosters as a firefighter from 1887-1895. In the early 1890s, he appears to have had a management role in the Union Park Association, a group of stockholders formed to operate a local park that charged admission for bicycle, foot, and horse races, and offered facilities for other recreational events. There are several newspaper references of Jack Blinkhorn acting as a judge for Park events. He is also mentioned as a keno dealer at the Congress Saloon and a Republican primary winner (unknown office) in 1896.

(Source of **NEW** Chief: February 9, 1886 Common Council minutes refer to Blinkhorn replacing Chief Innes after his resignation)

7 John Hart (8/1886-11/1887) NEW - No Photo Available. Twenty-five-year-old John Hart arrived in Tucson around 1878 and by 1880 was operating a successful wagon hauling business. While continuing the hauling business, by 1883 Hart was also the Proprietor of the Tucson Retreat Saloon on Meyer Street. In early 1886 He became Tucson's Street Commissioner.

John Hart was a member of the TFD for six years, starting in 1882 as a firefighter, serving as Assistant Chief in 1885, before his term as Chief in 1886 and 1887, and continuing as a firefighter in 1888. Prior to

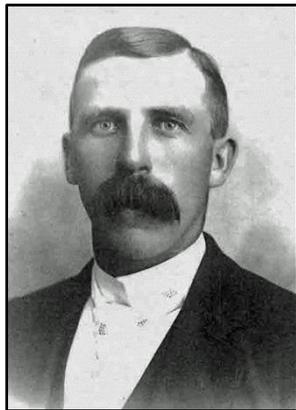
becoming Chief, he resigned his job as Street Commissioner and apparently soon after sold his hauling business. While he was Chief, the TFD purchased its first hand-drawn hook and ladder wagon which was used that year to fight a major fire at John Ivancovich's Produce Store on Congress Street.

Following his service to the TFD, Hart remained in the saloon business; an 1889 newspaper reported him operating the Cactus Saloon near the Southern Pacific Railroad Depot. He also owned and operated a ranch about 18 miles south of town. Hart was a member of the Odd Fellows and the AOUW.



John Hart ran a transfer business before he became TFD Chief. (Courtesy of the Arizona Daily Star, 1880)

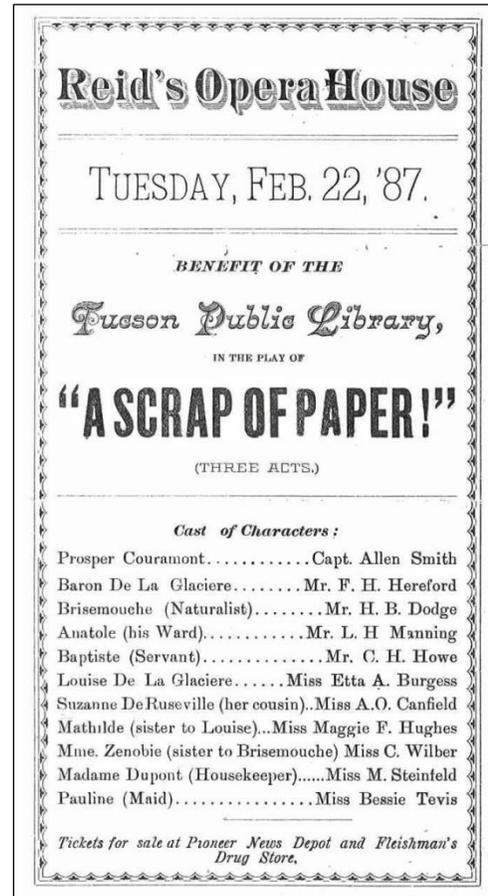
(Source of **NEW** Chief: August 2, 1886 Common Council minutes refer to newly elected Chief Hart)



8 William Reid (11/1887-1/1888)

NEW. Scotland-born William Reid operated at least two restaurants in downtown Tucson in the early 1880s. In 1886 he opened Reid's Opera House on the northeast corner of Pennington and Meyers Streets, where entertainment acts of the day played.

Also in 1886 Reid became a TFD firefighter, starting a decade-long association with the fire department. In 1887 he was elected to Tucson's Common Council, where he was immediately assigned to the Fire Committee, with oversight of the TFD. Apparently needing to replace TFD Chief John Hart in November 1887, Tucson Mayor William E. Stevens nominated William Reid to succeed Hart for a term of two months before the next regularly scheduled election of TFD officers in January 1888. Reid served the two months, the shortest term for a TFD Chief on record, and then with the election of Jack Boleyn to his second term as Chief, reassumed his duties as a Common Council Fire Committee member, continuing in that role until 1891. From 1891-1895 he served the TFD alternately as a company foreman, Treasurer, and a firefighter.

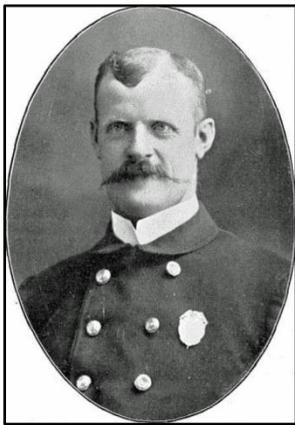


This ad is for a play in Reid's original Opera House. (Courtesy of the TFD)

Meanwhile, in late October 1888 Reid had opened a second, improved Opera House on the same site as the original. The final performance at this second Reid's Opera House occurred in July 1897, after which the building was remodeled into the Park View Hotel that Reid then managed.

In 1901, this busiest of Tucsonans replaced a member of the Common Council who had resigned and was reelected to serve as a Councilman until 1903. Reid continued to manage the Park View Hotel and added to his business interests the Opera Saloon on Pennington Street. William Reid was a member of the Foresters organization and the Tucson Chamber of Commerce.

(Source of **NEW** Chief: November 10, 1887 Common Council minutes refer to newly elected Chief Reid)



9 Frank Russell (10/1898-1902 and 1905). As a young man, England-born Frank Russell worked as a sailor on Pacific Ocean trade routes, labored at gas plants in California shoveling lamp black and tar, and as a lineman for Western Union Telegraph Co., before being transferred to Tucson in 1886 as district lineman of the Tucson-Yuma District.

In 1892 Russell was part of a group that formed the Tucson Electric Light & Power Co. and was named owner-operator - a position that he held through decades of growth until his death in 1923. In 1894 Russell partnered locally to form a second business, a dealership in electrical supplies, bicycles, and bicycle supplies that quickly expanded into a very successful hardware store.

From 1895-1902, now prominent business man Frank Russell served as a city Councilman, his terms extending over the administrations of three different mayors. (In 1901 and 1902, retired TFD Chief William Reid was also a member of the Common Council.)

In late 1898, the TFD was struggling to survive. Continuous water supply issues had reduced TFD to an ineffective and demoralized force which disbanded when membership dropped below specified minimum levels. Chief Boleyn had retired.

Businessman and Councilman Frank Russell, with no previous firefighting experience, was elected to manage a reorganized TFD. Under Russell's leadership, pumping improvements to the water system and the absorption of the Southern Pacific Railroad's fire brigade into the TFD helped immediately to improve TFD operations. Russell remained a councilman, doing "double duty" as TFD Chief and a member of the Fire Committee. In 1900 Chief



Frank Russell partnered in a bicycle shop in the late 1890s. (Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society, AHS 27152)

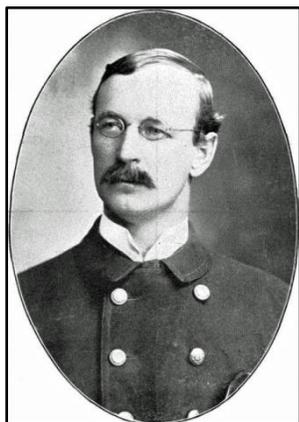
Russell presided over the acquisition of the Department's first horses⁴ to pull the previously hand-drawn hook & ladder wagon and chemical engine, and the hiring of the TFD's first paid firefighter to drive them, starting a 15-year transition to a fully paid fire department. Russell retired as Chief at the end of 1902, but was called back to serve a second term as Chief in 1905. The largest fire during Frank Russell's service as Chief was the Bee Hive Clothing Store on Congress Street in 1900.

After his final retirement from the TFD, Frank Russell led the expansion of the Tucson Electric Light & Power Co. to provide gas for heating homes and appliances, and even invented a gas pressure device to improve safety at gas plants. As a civic leader, he helped establish Armory Park and the Temple of Music and Art, and generated funds to build the city's first sewage system. Russell was also a member of the Elks and the AOUW.

Frank Russell's funeral in 1923 was a true city event. Tucson's flags were lowered to half-staff, and Russell's pallbearers included civic leaders Harry A. Drachman and Albert Steinfeld.



Frank Russell was buried at Evergreen Memorial Park. (Courtesy of Find a Grave)

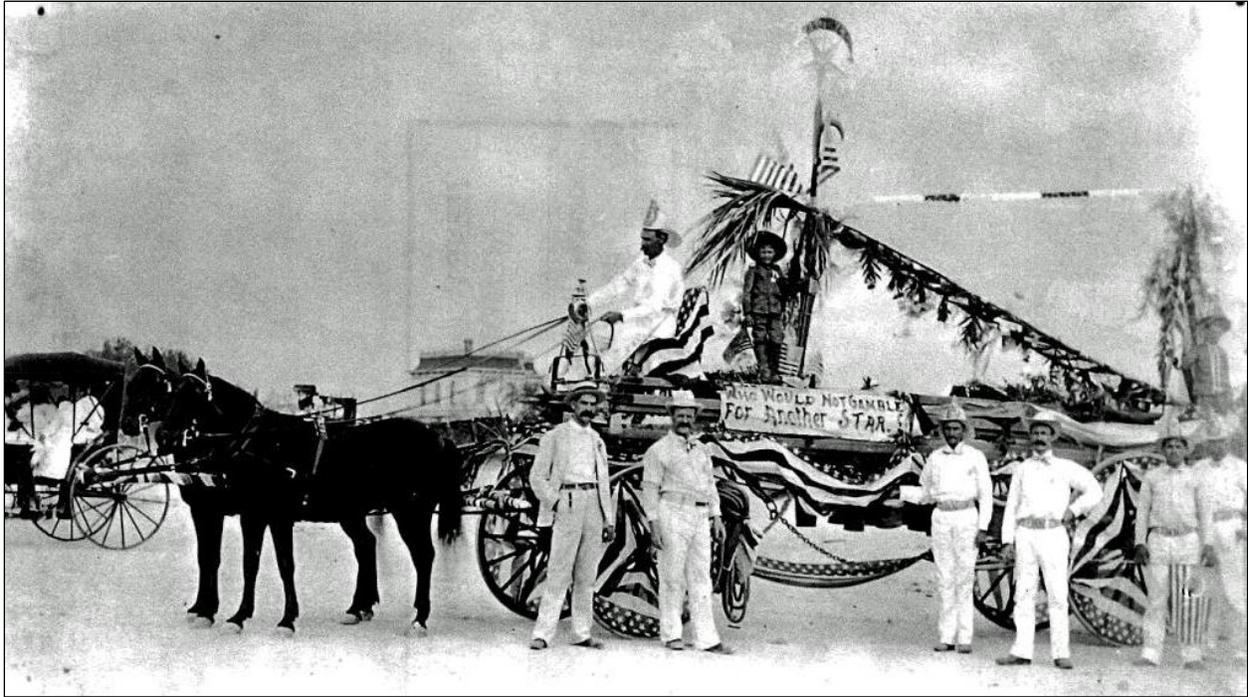


10 George Smith (1903). England-born George Smith immigrated to the U.S. in 1887, spent two years in California, and then moved to Phoenix where he operated a cleaning and dyeing business for eight years, before moving to Tucson in 1897. In Tucson, Smith developed a substantial tailoring and cleaning business.

George Smith joined the TFD in 1898 and served as a firefighter, clerk, foreman, and Assistant Chief, before becoming the 10th Chief of the TFD for the year 1903. Chief Smith presided over a department of about 60 men, and led the TFD in purchasing a horse-drawn hose wagon, and in hiring the TFD's second paid firefighter, to drive the wagon. Under his management in 1903 the TFD fought major fires in Tucson's "red light district" on West Congress and the San Xavier Hotel at the Southern Pacific Railroad Depot. After his term as Chief, Smith remained with the TFD as a firefighter through 1914.

Meanwhile George Smith's tailoring business had expanded to the American Steam Cleaning Service in 1913. He rapidly became one of Tucson's business leaders and in 1928 he was elected as the President of the Tucson Merchants Association. In 1931, and again in 1932, Smith was elected Mayor of Tucson, using the position to extol the climate in Tucson and was active in the formation of the Tucson Sunshine Club, a group that promoted tourism to Tucson. He was also active in the Elks, Luncheon, and Rotary Clubs of Tucson.

⁴ For the complete story of the horses that served the TFD, see the previous "Reflections" article, "Our Four-Footed Friends."



A TFD float in the 1898 4th of July Parade. Three future TFD Chiefs are shown. Harry Parker is in the driver's seat. Frank Russell is standing, second from left; George Smith is fourth from left. (Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society, B94486)



11 Henry Melliush (1904). Kansas-born Henry Melliush came to Tucson around 1896 as a trained optician and by 1898 had established a jewelry business on East Congress Street where he also fitted customers with glasses - enterprises he pursued until his death in 1911.

Melliush first joined the TFD in 1898 and remained with the fire department until 1910, serving as a firefighter, assistant foreman, foreman, second Assistant Chief, and Chief. During his term as Chief in 1904 the TFD fought major fires at the Ramona Hotel & Braggs Barber Shop on 5th Avenue and

a Southern Pacific Railroad Warehouse near the Depot. Chief Melliush proposed several "innovations" to the TFD, including a new fire station, an updated alarm system, a steam-powered fire engine, and additional feet of hose.

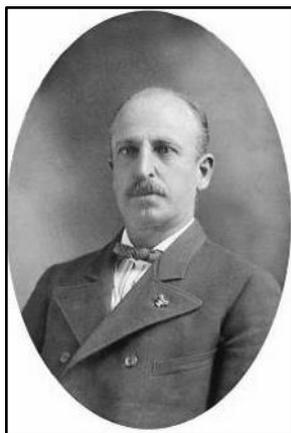
While Melliush was Chief, the Department was hit with a demoralizing scandal regarding

This ad appeared in the 1909 TFD Souvenir Booklet. (Courtesy of the TFD)

the improper behavior (theft and drunkenness) of three firefighters, which was finally settled internally after considerable discussion at Common Council meetings and notoriety in local newspapers.

In early 1911, apparently suffering from both business losses and ill health, Henry Melliush died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his head.

Melliush was a member of the Modern Woodmen, Knights of the Maccabees Lodge, and the AOUW.



12 George Scholefield (1906-1908). George Scholefield came west from Utica, New York in 1879, and worked three years at the Silver King mine in Globe, before moving to the San Rita Mountains southeast of Tucson to homestead a cattle ranch. In 1904 Scholefield became the first cattle inspector for the Territory of Arizona, a position he held for many years. Active in Tucson politics, he was elected a councilman in 1904 and 1905.

George Scholefield joined the TFD in 1902 as a firefighter and subsequently served as an assistant foreman and Assistant Chief before his term as Chief from 1906-1908. In 1904 and 1905, while a member of Tucson's Common Council, he also served on the Fire Committee. In 1907 Scholefield was elected to a one-year term as Chief of the Territorial Firemen's Association.

Following his term as Chief of the TFD, he remained in the Department as a firefighter in 1909, was absent from TFD records from 1910-1913, and reappears as a volunteer firefighter in 1914 and 1915.

George Scholefield's term as TFD Chief was important catalyst for the growth of the Department. A successful 1907 Tucson bond issue enabled the TFD to plan for a new fire station. In 1908 the TFD purchased and accepted delivery of a Nott Steamer fire engine⁵, a considerable length of hose, and a new fire alarm system. During Scholefield's service as Chief, the TFD fought major fires at the Shops of Gardener, Worthen & Goss at the Eastern Head of Congress Street, and the Whitwell Hospital at Adams and Euclid Streets.

After his TFD service, Scholefield returned to his ranch in the Santa Rita Mountains where he remained until 1940, when he moved back to Tucson, a couple of years before his death in 1942.

George Scholefield was lifetime member of the Elks and was also a member of the Arizona Pioneers Historical Society.

⁵ For the complete story of the Nott Steamer, see the previous "Reflections" article, "Tucson's Nott Steamer."



13 Sam Barkley (1909). Tennessee-born Sam Barkley came west to Phoenix in 1887 and moved to Tucson in 1896, where he started a “transfer business” (wagon hauling) on Congress Street with a local partner. By 1899 Barkley had opened the Tucson Livery Stable on Scott Street with his brother. This business evolved into the Tucson Hay & Grain Company by 1908.

Barkley started in public service early in his years in Tucson. In 1901 he was reported to be a member of the Arizona Territorial Assembly, then based in Phoenix. In 1902 and 1903 Barkley was elected to the Tucson Common Council. In September 1912 Tucson’s Mayor I. E. Huffman appointed Barkley to finish the Common Council term of someone who had resigned, and in 1913 Barkley was elected to a fourth term on the Common Council.

Sam Barkley first joined the TFD in 1899 as a firefighter. In a long 16-year career with the TFD, Barkley served as a foreman and first assistant Chief, before his single year as Chief in 1909. After completing the term as Chief, he was elected as Assistant Chief for an unprecedented six straight years, through 1915 when the volunteer fire department dissolved. In the latter part of 1912 and through 1913,



John Beck and Sam Barkley (standing at front right) pose in front of their transfer business on Congress Street. (Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society, circa late 1890s)

coinciding with his second stretch as a Common Council member, Barkley also was a Fire Committee member.

Barkley's term as Chief was short, but momentous for the TFD. In the spring of 1909, the Nott Steamer was put into service, pulled by a team of three new horses that Barkley himself had selected from the Gila Valley.⁶ A new fire station was designed and built, opening in July 1909. That same month, installation of the new city-wide alarm box system was completed. The most important fire during Barkley's year as Chief was fire at the Moreno and Valenzuela Building on Meyer.

After his years with the TFD, Sam Barkley continued his public service efforts. From 1913-1917 he was President of the Southern Arizona Fair Association. From 1915-1917 Barkley was both a Tucson School Trustee and the Appraiser of State Land for the Arizona Land Commission.

In 1917 Barkley resigned from all his Tucson connections and moved to Phoenix to become a realtor, with Loftus and Barkley realtors. At his death in 1926, he was buried in Phoenix.

Sam Barkley was an active member of the Knight of Pythias fraternal organization.



14 Frank Ganz (1910-1915). Tucsonan Frank Ganz started his business career working at the Tucson Hardware store on Congress Street. In 1904 he partnered with another local man to start a new business, Ramage and Ganz Plumbing on Scott Street. Eventually Ganz took over sole ownership of the business, renamed Ganz Plumbing and Heating, which flourished for over 50 years until his death in 1961.

Frank Ganz's career with the TFD dovetailed remarkably with that of Sam Barkley. Ganz started as a firefighter in 1903 and served as an assistant foreman and Assistant Chief, before starting his six-year term as volunteer Chief of the TFD in 1910. Ganz was Assistant Chief for Sam Barkley in 1909 and Barkley was Ganz's Assistant Chief during all six years of Ganz's service as Chief. In a strange twist of fate, Assistant Chief Barkley's house was destroyed by fire in 1910.

As the last volunteer Chief, Ganz saw major changes to the TFD. The horse-drawn apparatus era came to an end, with the gasoline-powered fire truck age beginning in 1914. The TFD transitioned to a fully-paid Department by the end of 1915.

During Frank Ganz's term as volunteer Chief, the TFD fought major fires Southern Pacific Railroad Shops; Goldring Furniture Store on East Congress (the fire at which former Chief Jack Boleyn was fatally injured); Kitt's Sons Department Store on East Congress; the Tucson Citizen Plant on Belknap; Stationary, Meat, and Candy Stores on East Congress; Litt's Drug Store and Adjacent Buildings at Stone and Congress; the Kress Building on East Congress; and the Tucson Furniture Company on East Congress.

⁶ For years, Sam Barkley had been an avid horseman, owning and racing his horses in Tucson and Phoenix.

Frank Ganz was a member of the AOUW fraternal society.

Summary and Conclusion

The period of the volunteer chiefs, 1881-1915, was special to Tucsonans. In an April 29, 1928 interview for the *Arizona Daily Star*, former TFD Chief and Mayor George Smith, remembered,

“In those days all social and civic interest was centered in the volunteer fire department. It was the chamber of commerce, Elks, Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions, and in fact, all present organizations rolled into one. It was also the headquarters for the local political organizations, and platforms were drafted and candidates selected at the fire station.”

To summarize our discussion, the following chart presents a listing of the 14 volunteer Chiefs of the TFD. If anyone reading this article has any additional information on these volunteer Chiefs, particularly photos of Chiefs Baird, Hallahan, Gutsch, or Hart, please contact Al Ring at ringal@comcast.net.

We have introduced six TFD Chiefs previously unidentified in Department records. That changes the traditional (number) order of Department Chiefs. So we present as a final chart, our best assessment of the complete numbered list of all TFD Chiefs.

Volunteer Firefighters Database

All of the membership information collected so far for volunteer TFD personnel can be found on this website under Honor Roll & Membership Information (1) at <http://www.tucsonfirefoundation.com/honor-roll-membership-information/>.

From 1881-1915 a total of about 560 individuals served the volunteer Tucson Fire Department as Fire Committee members on the Common Council, as officers of the TFD, and/or firefighters. Particulars on these people are summarized in a comprehensive Excel data base under **TVFD Honor Roll**, “1881-1915 Honor Roll.” Links to supporting documentation and annual personnel rosters are also listed there.

Detailed information on the TFD Chiefs can be found by name under **CHIEFS** and for other TFD officers under **Chief Officers**.

As we have seen with the volunteer TFD Chiefs, other volunteers included such prominent Tucson citizens and true Tucson pioneers as Pedro Aguirre (freighter, stage line operator, rancher), Henry Bueheman (photographer), Mose Drachman (businessman, councilman), Jose Elias (rancher, farmer, Indian fighter), Robert Leatherwood (Mayor, Sheriff), Alexander Levin (entertainment entrepreneur, councilman), Fred Ronstadt (wagon & carriage maker), Mariano Samaniego (freighter, rancher, stage line operator, councilman), Albert Steinfeld (merchandizer, councilman), Hiram Stevens (rancher, merchandizer, miner, councilman), Charles Strauss (accountant, councilman, Mayor, UA catalyst), and William Zeckendorf (merchandizer).

The Volunteer Chiefs of the Tucson Fire Department, 1881-1915.

**Volunteer Chiefs
and
Terms of Office**

1. Sam Baird	6/1881-9/1882
2. Thomas Hallahan	9/1882-8/1883
3. Jack Boleyn	8/1883-6/1884
	1/1888-9/1898
4. Harry Gutsch	7/1884-7/1885
5. John Innes	7/1885-1/1886
6. Jack Blinkhorn	2/1886-8/1886
7. John Hart	8/1886-11/1887
8. William Reid	11/1887-1/1888
9. Frank Russell	10/1898-1902
	1905
10. George Smith	1903
11. Henry Melliush	1904
12. George Scholefield	1906-1908
13. Sam Barkley	1909
14. Frank Ganz	1910-1915

**TFD Chiefs
and
Terms of Office**

1. Sam Baird 6/1881-9/1882
2. Thomas Hallahan 9/1882-8/1883
3. Jack Boleyn 8/1883-6/1884, 1/1888-9/1898
4. Harry Gutsch 7/1884-7/1885
5. John Innes 7/1885-1/1886
6. Jack Blinkhorn 2/1886-8/1886
7. John Hart 8/1886-11/1887
8. William Reid 11/1887-1/1888
9. Frank Russell 10/1898-1902, 1905
10. George Smith 1903
11. Henry Melliush 1904
12. George Scholefield 1906-1908
13. Sam Barkley 1909
14. Frank Ganz 1910-1915

15. Tom Conlon 4/1910-12/1910
16. Harry Parker 1911-1920
17. Joseph Roberts 1921-6/1938
18. Henry Hilles 6/1938-6/1946
19. John Sievert 7/1946-10/1953
20. Robert Freeman 11/1953-4/1966
21. Leonel Peterson 4/1966-7/1976
22. Dean Holland 11/1976-3/1982
23. Richard Moreno 4/1982-9/1992
24. Frederick Shipman 2/1993-1/2001
25. Daniel Newburn 7/2001-9/2008
26. Patrick Kelly 11/2008-2/2011
27. Jim Critchley 9/2011-present

There are separate highlight sections on most of these prominent citizens (and their connections to the TFD) under **Volunteer Individuals**. There are also separate sections included on people of special interest, such as Jasper S. Scrivner, who after his service as a firefighter, was charged with a gruesome murder, got off free, and later was killed by bandits in a mining camp store robbery. Also included here is information on families (e.g. Doe, Drachman, Pacheco, and Scrivner) that had several firefighter members.

The balance of the volunteers are generally less well-known people who may be of interest to readers and researchers looking for ancestors or family-tree relationships, or human interest stories from Arizona's Territorial and early statehood periods. What data we have on these people is contained alphabetically under **Volunteer Members**.

Primary Sources

Tucson Fire Department Archives / Greater Tucson Fire Foundation,
<http://www.tucsonfirefoundation.com/tfd-archive-down/>

Articles, History & More: Tucson History, "1871-2005 Mayors-Council"

Chronological History (1881-1959): "1881-1915"

Tucson Common Council Minutes: "1881-1915"

Honor Roll & Membership Information (1): "Chiefs," "TVD Honor Roll"

Greater Tucson Fire Foundation

Thank you for taking an interest in Tucson Fire Department history —

This is one of many sections that contain information, documents, letters, newspaper articles, pictures, etc. They have been collected and arranged in chronological order or by a subject. These items were collected, organized and entered into a computerized database by Dave Ridings Retired Assistant Chief Tucson Fire Department, Al Ring friend of the department, Greater Tucson Fire Foundation and with the help of many friends and fellow firefighters.

All graphics have been improved to make the resolution as good as possible, but the reader should remember that many came from copies of old newspaper articles. This also applies to other items such as documents, letters, etc.

Credit to the source of the documents, photos, etc. is provided whenever it was available. We realize that many items are not identified and regret that we weren't able to provide this information. As far as the newspaper articles that are not identified, 99% of them would have to be from one of three possible sources. The *Arizona Daily Star*, The *Tucson Citizen* and the *Tucson Daily Citizen*, for which we want to give a special thanks.

Please use this information as a reference tool only. If the reader uses any of the information for any purpose other than a reference tool, they should get permission from the source.

Should the reader have additional information on the above subject we would appreciate you sharing it with us. Please see the names and contact information on the 1st. TFD Archives page right below this paragraph.

