

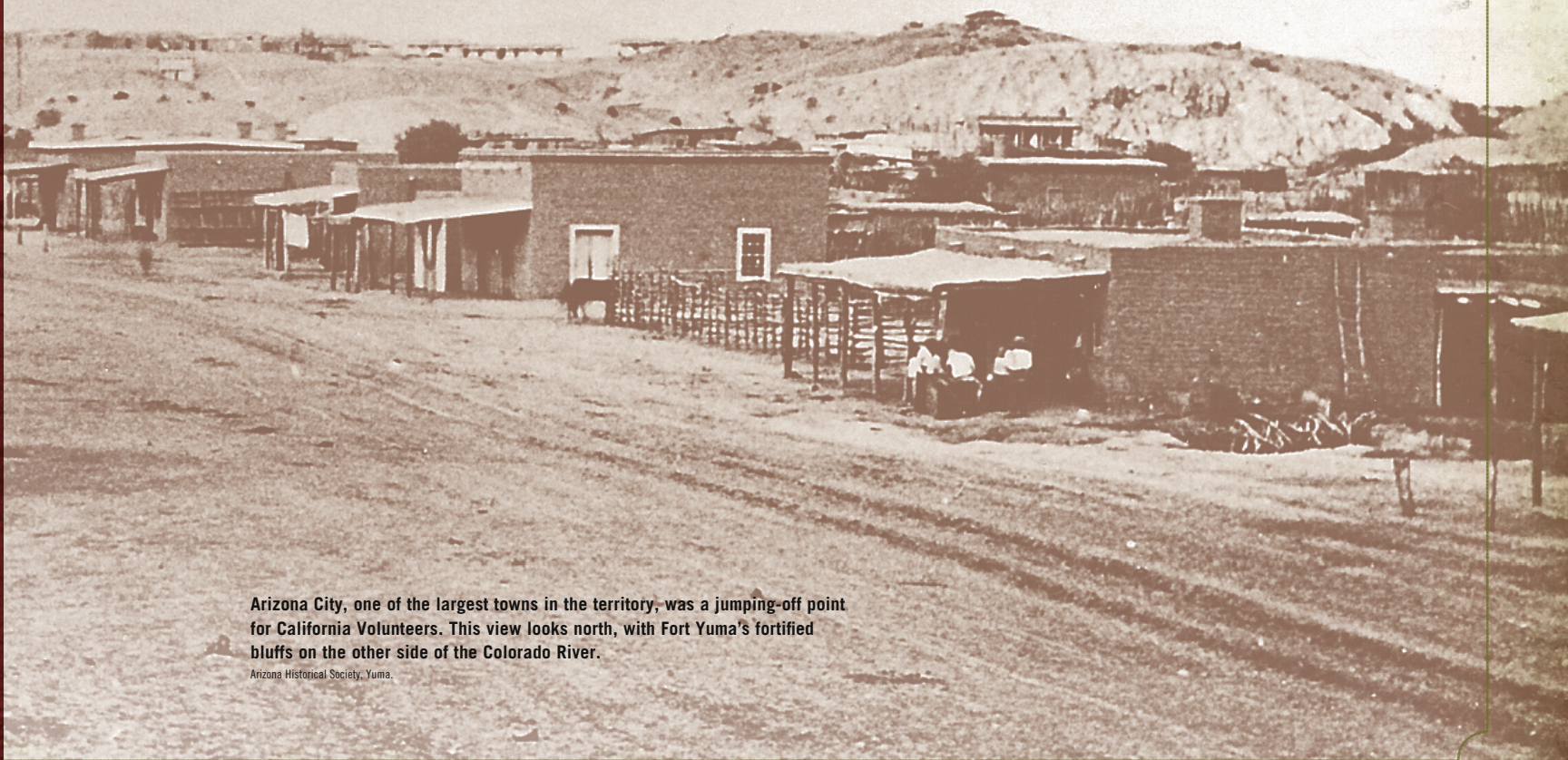


Tom McClelland, date unknown. The photo has a faded inscription on the back that reads "killed in Indian uprising."
HHC L & A, McClelland Collection, MSP #111, Box RC 45.

“I DO NOT BELIEVE I WAS BORN TO BE SHOT BY AN INDIAN”

TOM MCCLELLAND'S PURSUIT OF FORTUNE

By Betty Bettencourt Dodds, Ed.D.



Arizona City, one of the largest towns in the territory, was a jumping-off point for California Volunteers. This view looks north, with Fort Yuma's fortified bluffs on the other side of the Colorado River.

Arizona Historical Society, Yuma.

Just imagine, you see me astride a mule, dressed in a country flannel shirt, a rifle over my shoulder, a pair of pistols and a miner's 'toothpick' in my belt, wouldn't I look fierce? I think I will be as formidable as Robinson Crusoe on his uninhabited island."¹

When Tom McClelland sent these words to his parents, perhaps they were amused or apprehensive—or both. In early spring of 1861, their 22-year-old son had announced

from his architectural and construction business had declined substantially due to the recession that ensued after the Panic of 1857. With his income diminished and a large family to support, James suffered financial anxiety, and Tom felt it keenly.

Tom's maternal grandfather, Dr. John Black, a Reformed Presbyterian minister and professor of classical languages, had tutored Tom's mother. She was fond of reclining in her

letters—family vacations to New York, rides in luxury carriages, buying whatever they desired. However, he could not have chosen a worse time or place to pursue his fortune: the Civil War was starting, Southwest Indians were on the warpath, and the Arizona Territory was lawless without legal or military protection.

In 1856, Colonel Samuel Heintzelman, the ex-commander of Fort Yuma, and Charles D. Poston, a flamboyant promoter, incorporated the Sonora Exploring and Mining Company. From 1859 to 1861, the company opened as many as 80 silver mines in the Arivaca-Tubac area, south of Tucson, touting the enterprise as the most important mining venture on the continent. The price of silver bullion remained high and the rich ore provided a good profit. Nevertheless, mining costs in this remote, mountainous

As concerned parents fearful for Tom's safety, they must have warned him of the dangers of such a foolhardy, risky adventure. Tom, however, was not to be dissuaded.

he was going to find his fortune in the silver mines of lawless Arizona. As concerned parents fearful for Tom's safety, they must have warned him of the dangers of such a foolhardy, risky adventure. Tom, however, was not to be dissuaded.

In May, just weeks after the Civil War began with the firing on Fort Sumter, Thomas, or just Tom, traveled from his comfortable home in Pittsburgh to a New York City hotel where he signed on with the Sonora Exploring and Mining Company. The company sought educated, middle-class Americans for managers and technicians after years of problems with the local, Mexican labor force; he would be a machinist.²

Recent events undoubtedly influenced Tom's dream of striking it rich. Tom was the oldest of the nine children of James and Lizzie McClelland. James was responsible for designing and building many of Pittsburgh's finest buildings as well as installing portions of the city's water system. He was a frequent contributor to the daily press and known for his intense interest in the public welfare.³ Revenue

rocking chair, reading classical poetry aloud in Greek or Latin, while her daughters and sons attended to the household chores.⁴ Her children developed industry, responsibility, and independence.

By 1860, the stock market was on fire with shares of silver mines doubling in short order. Fortunes were made overnight and many lost the next day. Wild stories circulated of men finding fist-sized lumps of pure silver scattered on the Arizona desert. Newspapers, magazines, and brokers promoted quick wealth but neglected to reveal the high risks of the silver mining bonanza.⁵

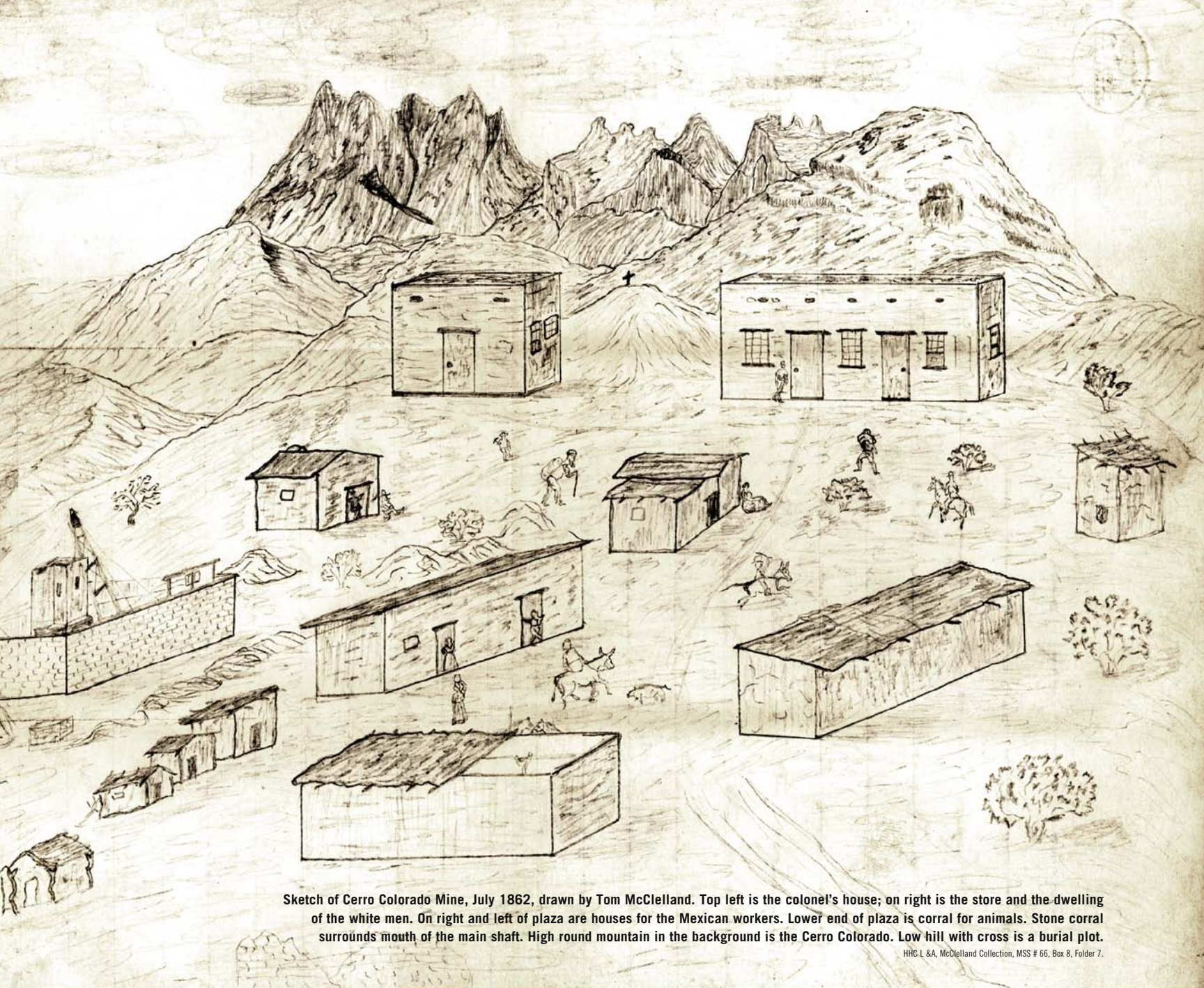
Tom intended to find his fortune quickly so he could provide for the family during its period of hardship. His father had left North Ireland at age 17, arriving in Pittsburgh with nothing but a dream to succeed as an architect. For Tom, traveling to Arizona to find his fortune was similar. Arizona would be Tom's oyster, where he would pluck from its shell the riches of the Cerro Colorado Silver Mine. Fantasies of what he would do with the wealth upon his return frequently popped up in his

region were seriously underestimated, and the operation needed constant infusions of capital. Overly optimistic, inflated financial reports were published to attract more investors for needed capital. At one point Heintzelman, to forestall bankruptcy, solicited Samuel Colt, of revolver fame, to invest in the enterprise.⁶

In June 1861, Tom and another new hire, George Pierce, shipped out from New York, crossed the Isthmus of Panama by rail, and sailed back north to San Francisco. Tom's letter to his uncle, dated August 23, 1861, describes the trip and his guilt for not enlisting in the Union Army.

If it was not for my engagement with Col. Lally, I would enlist here. [The colonel was Samuel Colt's agent and ex-manager of the mine.] I may however be able to serve my country in Arizona, for it is believed the Texans are contemplating a descent in that quarter inciting the Indians to exterminate the whites. I only hope I may be able to strike a blow at the Rebels for then, the people will not think I am a coward.⁷

Cross-country correspondence at this time was neither swift nor sure, usually



Sketch of Cerro Colorado Mine, July 1862, drawn by Tom McClelland. Top left is the colonel's house; on right is the store and the dwelling of the white men. On right and left of plaza are houses for the Mexican workers. Lower end of plaza is corral for animals. Stone corral surrounds mouth of the main shaft. High round mountain in the background is the Cerro Colorado. Low hill with cross is a burial plot.

HHCL & A, McClelland Collection, MSS # 66, Box 8, Folder 7.

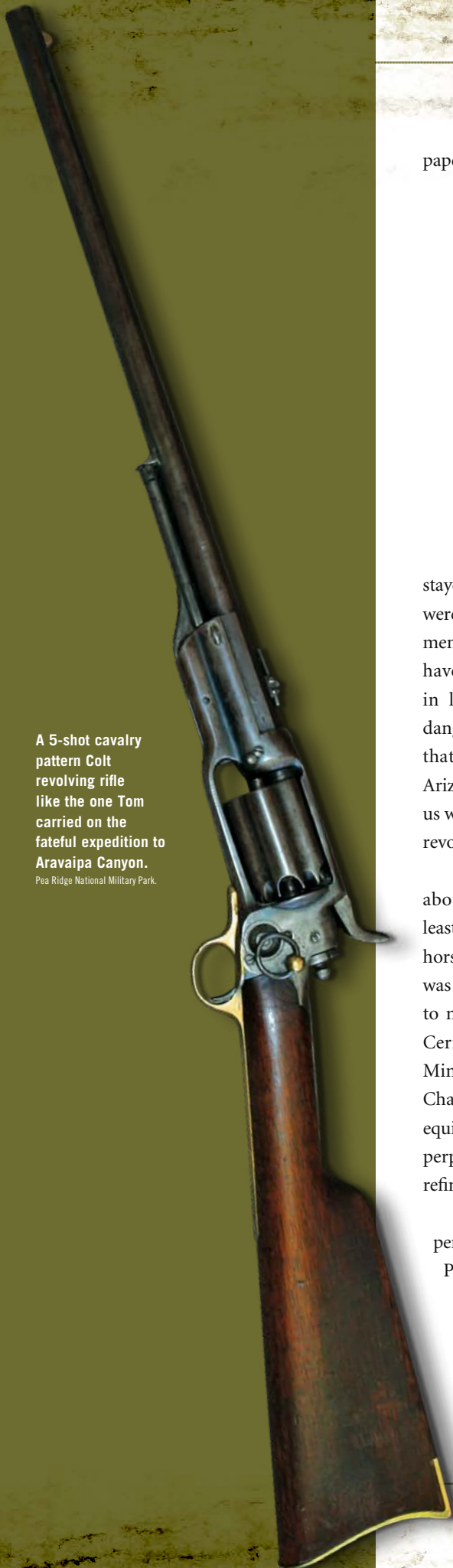
requiring three or more weeks' delivery time. When Texas seceded from the Union, mail carriers were told to avoid the more direct route through Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona and to use the central route through Nebraska and Utah. The termination of the more direct mail route lengthened delivery time and was a severe blow to settlers and mining companies in Arizona.⁸

Mail service in southern Arizona became very irregular by mid-1861. During the Civil War no regular mail service was

available from Tucson to the East. Mail service was by military express, with volunteer soldiers providing most of the personnel, and some of the Butterfield [Overland Mail Coaches] station stops [ceased] being used. Not until 1865 were regular mail contracts re-instituted in southern Arizona.⁹

For Tom the extended lag time between his letters and his parents' responses resulted in feelings of isolation and abandonment. "Have you all forgotten me?"

At the same time the mail was redirected, federal troops in Arizona forts were recalled east to fight for the Union. A small contingent of Texan Confederate infantry took over in Arizona below the 34th parallel (designated by Congress as the North/South divide). As the federal army withdrew, burning forts and removing encampments, Apaches watched from vantage points and surmised they had won. They then felt justified in exterminating remaining whites in southern Arizona.¹⁰



A 5-shot cavalry pattern Colt revolving rifle like the one Tom carried on the fateful expedition to Aravaipa Canyon. Pea Ridge National Military Park.

The Daily Alta California, a San Francisco paper, published a "Letter from Arizona," September 2, 1861:

Our prosperity has departed. The mail is withdrawn; the soldiers are gone and their garrisons burned to the ground; the miners murdered and the mines abandoned, the stock raisers and farmers have abandoned their crops and herds to the Indians and the population generally have fled, panic-struck and naked, in search of refuge. We think no man ever before saw desolation so widespread. From end-to-end of the Territory, except alone in Tucson and its immediate vicinity, there is not a human habitation.¹¹

Tom and others of the mining company stayed in a San Francisco hotel while supplies were procured for the mining expedition. He mentions the *Alta* in several letters and must have read the "Letter from Arizona." Yet in letters to his parents he mitigates the dangers facing him: "There are reports here that the Indians are very troublesome in Arizona, but we do not fear them.... Each of us will have a Colt revolving rifle and a pair of revolving pistols."¹²

Tom attempted to reassure his mother about his safety: "You need not be the least uneasy about me. If I am killed I want horsewhipped this jackass. I do not believe I was born to be shot by an Indian."¹³ He neglects to mention that Mexican miners raided the Cerro Colorado Mine (aka Heintzelman Mine), killing three Americans, including Charles Poston's brother, John, destroying equipment, and flooding the mine shaft. The perpetrators escaped to Sonora carrying off refined silver, goods, and arms.¹⁴

In light of the potential dangers to their personnel, the mining company owners (Mr. Poston and Col. Colt) decided to suspend all mining activities. A letter from Tom's father expressed his sympathy for Tom's disappointment with the closing of the mines. Two months later, the mine owners reassessed the conditions

and decided to go ahead. A letter written November 4, 1861, informs his parents of the owners' decision to reopen the mine, and again, reassures them of his safety:

I think I may safely say that tomorrow we leave San Francisco [for Guaymas] as all our freight is on board the steamer... You need not be uneasy about me as I will not be in any particular danger. We may have to fight the Mexicans, [for] they are a rather mean foe. As for the Indians they have not been very troublesome for some time back. All the reports you hear (and I know you hear them there) about the destitution of Arizona are untrue. The country is in a more favorable condition now...nearly all the desperados that infested the Territory have joined the Rebel Army and gone to the War.¹⁵

From the Hotel Gran Sociedad, Hermosillo, Mexico, December 30, 1861, Tom wrote to his younger sister, Mary. No letters from her have survived, but the frequent mention of her in his letters suggests they were very close.

We arrived here (from Guaymas) December 17 in high-toned style, all well and in good spirits. We have a four-mule coach and two saddle mules. I rode one of the mules...a splendid black fellow. I call her Lady Gay Spanker. You should have seen me...corduroy pants, stuck in my boots, a hat that measured a yard across, a flannel shirt, a pair of spurs with rowels as large as the lid of a blackening box, a pistol at my side, a five-shooting rifle slung across my back....One of the party said that I looked like the Robber of the Rhine. [He then describes meeting a wealthy Spanish lady.] She found out I was a machinist...she wanted me to marry one of her daughters, as persons of my trade are thought a great deal of here in Sonora.¹⁶

Five months later, May 25, 1862, in a letter to his uncle, Tom described the trek from Hermosillo across the Sonora desert to Arivaca as slow and arduous: nine wagons, each drawn by 10 mules, hauled heavy equipment and

supplies. One morning, some 40 miles from the mine, Indians attacked but were repelled without loss of men or animals. On January 16 they finally arrived at the Cerro Colorado Mine only to view devastation and ruin:

Not a door nor window frame in any of the adobe houses remains, everything was stolen by the Mexicans. I got the steam engine—rock crusher, salt mill and well-boring apparatus—up and set them in motion, everything runs well. About two months ago the Mexican miners (again) attempted to murder all the white men. They succeeded in killing one man and badly wounding another. We killed one and wounded several after they stole our animals.¹⁷

The Cerro Colorado Mine was situated 10 miles from any settlement, so the theft of their horses and stock was devastating. Refined silver was shipped out by pack mules to Yuma, loaded onto boats, and coasted down the Colorado to the Sea of Cortez.¹⁸ From there it was shipped to the U.S. Mint in San Francisco. Without the animals, revenues and provisions ceased.

Writing from the mine July 13, 1862, Tom complained he had not received any letters from his parents since November. He reminisced about previous Fourth of July celebrations, “where the hills of Pittsburgh ... echoed and reechoed the show of loyal citizens.” In contrast,

An Arizona 4th consists of drinking egg nog and firing anvils, both of which I participated in, though not to excess in either. The hole in the anvil is filled with powder and another anvil is placed on top. Fire is applied, which is followed by a report equaling in sound and effect of the discharge of a cannon. We fired anvils and made the Cerro Colorado ring and ring again. In the morning, we hoisted the Stars and Stripes. A salute was fired by a detachment of the California US Volunteers.¹⁹

In the same letter, Tom included a pencil sketch of the Cerro Colorado mining site. The primitive, carefully executed drawing details the adobe structures, mine shaft, corral,

blacksmith shop, and other buildings—notably, it’s the only view of the mine known to exist. When the mine was at the height of production in 1861, more than 200 workers lived on the site, including women.²⁰

A California Volunteers contingency force ousted the Confederate Texans at Tucson and reestablished the fort in mid 1862.²¹

the front....I tell you in an Indian fight a man has to be lively and not give the enemy time to surround or come up on you....it is very necessary often to dodge arrows.²²

John McClelland fought in the Battle of Gettysburg as a gunner and survived the war to become a medical doctor in Pittsburgh.

Tom realized \$325 for his hay contract.

The Apaches were encamped at the head of the canyon. It is here Tom met his fate.

In spite of the return of U.S. troops, all the mines of the Sonora and Exploring Mining Company were closed after July 1862. The sudden death of Col. Colt and the escalating costs of the mining operations, plus continuing threats from Apache raids and Mexican bandits in the remote locations, contributed to the decision to halt production. Tom and other employees removed to the Tucson military post.

Colonel Lally left the Tucson post for a six-month period, leaving George Pierce (his secretary) and Tom in charge of company interests. The colonel intended to lobby Congress to pass Territory of Arizona legislation. Tom got a salary raise, acquired several yoke of oxen to rent, and secured a hay contract with the government.

A March 11, 1863, letter to his parents included advice for his younger brother, John, who had joined the Union Army.

John makes a good soldier, does he not, tell him whenever he goes into a fight to always look forward, never hesitate, but fight quick and hard, for a man is just as liable to fall lingering in the rear as he is if pushing bravely forward... If he has to retreat, let him always face to the front, for a wound in the back is not always honorable. I have had a little experience in fighting and my wounds are all in

He gave Col. Lally a certified account check for \$473.55, which he was to cash at the Presidio in San Francisco and forward to Pittsburgh. (Later Col. Lally claimed there were no funds in the account.) Tom expressed his sorrow that he could not send more money home. “I feel it necessary to keep with me \$400 so that if I have to leave, I’ll not want for money. As soon as possible I’ll send you more, I hope you will be pleased with the money.”²³ There was no safe way to transfer or wire money. Tom hoped Col. Lally would visit Pittsburgh and personally deliver the money to his father.

In his last letter from Tucson, dated April 21, 1863, Tom complained that he’d had no letters for weeks:

With frequent visits we receive from the Apaches it makes things in this locality very rough. I will hope for better times soon, if not sooner.” And in the same letter, “I have no doubt you would like to know when I expect to be home, but I can’t say...my object for coming out here is not yet accomplished. And until it is, I’ll not go home.”²⁴

Tom’s commitment to finding his fortune, and possibly his reluctance to admit failure, prevented him from leaving the dangers of Arizona and returning to the safety of Pittsburgh.

Indian Scouting in Arizona by George Holbrook Baker depicts California Volunteers campaigning against Arizona Indians. Tidball's force of 102 men on horseback with pack animals for supplies must have encountered similar conditions as they traversed mountains and streams to get to the Apache encampment.

Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.





In August 1861, Tom wrote that "Each of us will have a Colt revolving rifle and a pair of revolving pistols." His pistol was probably like this 6-shot Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver (with the Army name being a marketing tactic, not an indication of use or endorsement).

Armed Forces History, Division of History of Technology, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian, Neg. 2001-4019.



Captain Thomas Tidball, 5th. Inf. Cal. Vols.
Courtesy Arizona Historical Society/Tucson, photo #11255.

Letter from Captain Thomas Tidball to James McClelland informing him of Tom's death.

HHC L & A, McClelland Collection, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 8, ltr Tidball to father, Fort Bowie, 9/25/1863.

Fort Bowie, Apache Pass,
Arizona, Sept. 25, 1863.

James W. McClelland, Dear Sir:— Your letter of
June 27, 1863, addressed to me at Tucson
was received at this Post on the 18th inst.
I presume that Mr. Pierce, agent
Mr. Lally, has written you the particulars
concerning the death of your son, Thomas
McClelland. I miss him, however, cheerfully,
and as I possess upon

On June 19, 1863 James McClelland read, with dread, a brief announcement in the *Pittsburgh Evening Gazette*: "Pittsburgher killed in Arizona in a gallant expedition against the Apache Indians." The next morning, his worst fears were confirmed when he saw the telegraph dispatch from Tucson in the editor's office. The editor then published the following:

Pittsburgh Evening Gazette, Saturday,
June 20, 1863

Pittsburgher Killed in Arizona.

Thomas C. McClelland, the young man who fell in the late gallant expedition against the Apache Indians, noticed in yesterday's paper, was a son of Mr. James H. McClelland, architect of this city. He left here in 1861, in company with Col. Lalley, to assist in managing the business of a large silver mining company.²⁵

James McClelland wrote two letters from Pittsburgh on June 26, 1863, one to Colonel D. Fergusson, commanding officer at the Tucson post, and another to Captain T.T. Tidball, who was mentioned in the telegraph message as the officer leading the charge against the Apaches.

My son, Thos. C. McClelland, was a resident in Tucson in the service of Col. Lally and I cannot but believe that it was him whose fate is spoke of in the paper.... Please send me such information as you possess, on the death and burial, the conditions on which he entered into that expedition. Was he a mere volunteer or some form of enlistment into the service of the US entitling him to some kind of compensation?²⁶

Apaches had been conducting almost continual raids in and around Tucson, killing settlers, kidnapping children, driving off cattle, and committing other depredations. The military was asked to intervene and as a response Capt. Tidball conducted an expedition into Aravaipa Canyon, northeast of Tucson.²⁷ The canyon is noted for its desert stream cutting through steep walls of the 10-mile central gorge at the north end of

the Galiuro Mountains. The Apaches were encamped at the head of the canyon. It is here Tom met his fate.

James McClelland received a report from Capt. Tidball, at Fort Bowie, Apache Pass. The letter, dated three months later on September 25, 1863, was written in beautiful script and provided details of Tom's demise.

Dear Sir,
Your son, with seven other citizens of Tucson, accompanied me on the expedition to Arivaypo [Aravaipa] Canyon, as mere volunteers without conditions or stipulations.

Thirty-four Mexicans and thirty-four

that if we succeeded as we anticipated in surprising the Indians, there would be comparatively little danger. Later I was informed by Col. Fergusson that he had made a similar remark to him and to others before leaving Tucson. He seemed to be impressed with the belief that he would be killed.

We surprised the Apache Rancheria as I anticipated about sunrise of the morning of the 7th of May. The attack was made with the Infantry, the Cavalry remaining in the rear, with orders to come up if the Indians made a stand; or as soon as they commenced a retreat. The Indians fled at the first fire, and

"Pittsburgher killed in Arizona in a gallant expedition against the Apache Indians."

— Pittsburgh Evening Gazette

Papago Indians were with me upon the same terms, making with my twenty-five soldiers a total force of 102 men. It was understood and so ordered by Col. Fergusson that the property captured if any from the Apaches should be equitably distributed amongst the whole party.

The citizens including your son were mounted upon their own horses. Rations were furnished by the Government.... Your son was armed with a Colt revolving rifle and a pistol.

Although I was informed that he was going with me, I had no conversation with him, previous to leaving Tucson. The day after our departure, in a conversation with myself and Dr. Cox, of our regiment, he made this remark: "If we get into a fight I believe I will be the first man killed." I would not have thought much of such a remark under ordinary circumstances, but there was somehow something so earnest in his expression that it attracted my attention. I cautioned him to not act rashly and to discard any such notion,

almost simultaneously the mounted men charged to the front. I did not see your son after the engagement commenced, nor know of his death until it was over. I was informed by those who saw it, that he rode up to the front of a bush, where an Indian was lying, wounded through the hips, and that he was shot by this Indian. The ball struck him a little above the heart, severing the main artery and producing instant death. The Indian was killed immediately. Tom's horse, a very fine, high-spirited animal escaped with the revolving rifle fastened to the saddle, and we saw nothing of him afterwards. Tom had his revolver in his hand, but did not fire it.

The pistol and his other personal effects were taken charge of by Mr. Peter Brady of Tucson, and delivered to Mr. Pierce upon our return.

As we were in a position badly adapted for defense, in case the Indians rallied in sufficient force to attack us and knowing nothing of their strength in the vicinity, I determined to get

out of the Canyon and mountains as speedily as possible. The body of your son was placed upon a pack mule and we left the Canyon, and did not halt until we reached an open valley, ten miles from the battleground. Here, in a little cottonwood grove upon the bank of the Arivaypo [sic] River, we made a grave as best we could with the bayonets of my men and the lances of the Indians, and consigned to its last resting place the body of your son. We obliterated all traces of the grave to prevent the Apaches from finding it and exhuming the body. We placed marks upon the trees that the spot could be recognized. I regretted very much that the distance to Tucson and the time required to make the march (5 days) precluded the possibility of taking his remains there for interment. To the dead it made no difference, but it would have afforded melancholy satisfaction to his friends to have known that he was buried within the precincts of civilization.

We captured 66 head of horses, mules and cattle, which at [that] time could not probably have been sold for over \$1000.00. They were disposed of by lottery, and through some misunderstanding the name of your son was not included in the drawing. There were but three or four prizes of any special value.

Mr. Pierce has undoubtedly written you long on this and informed you of the private affairs of your son, of which I know nothing. I only became acquainted with him about three weeks previous to his death. I have given you such information as came under by personal notice, and if I can render you any further service in the matter,

I will do so cheerfully at any time.

Accept the sympathy of a soldier in your Government,

Very truly yours,

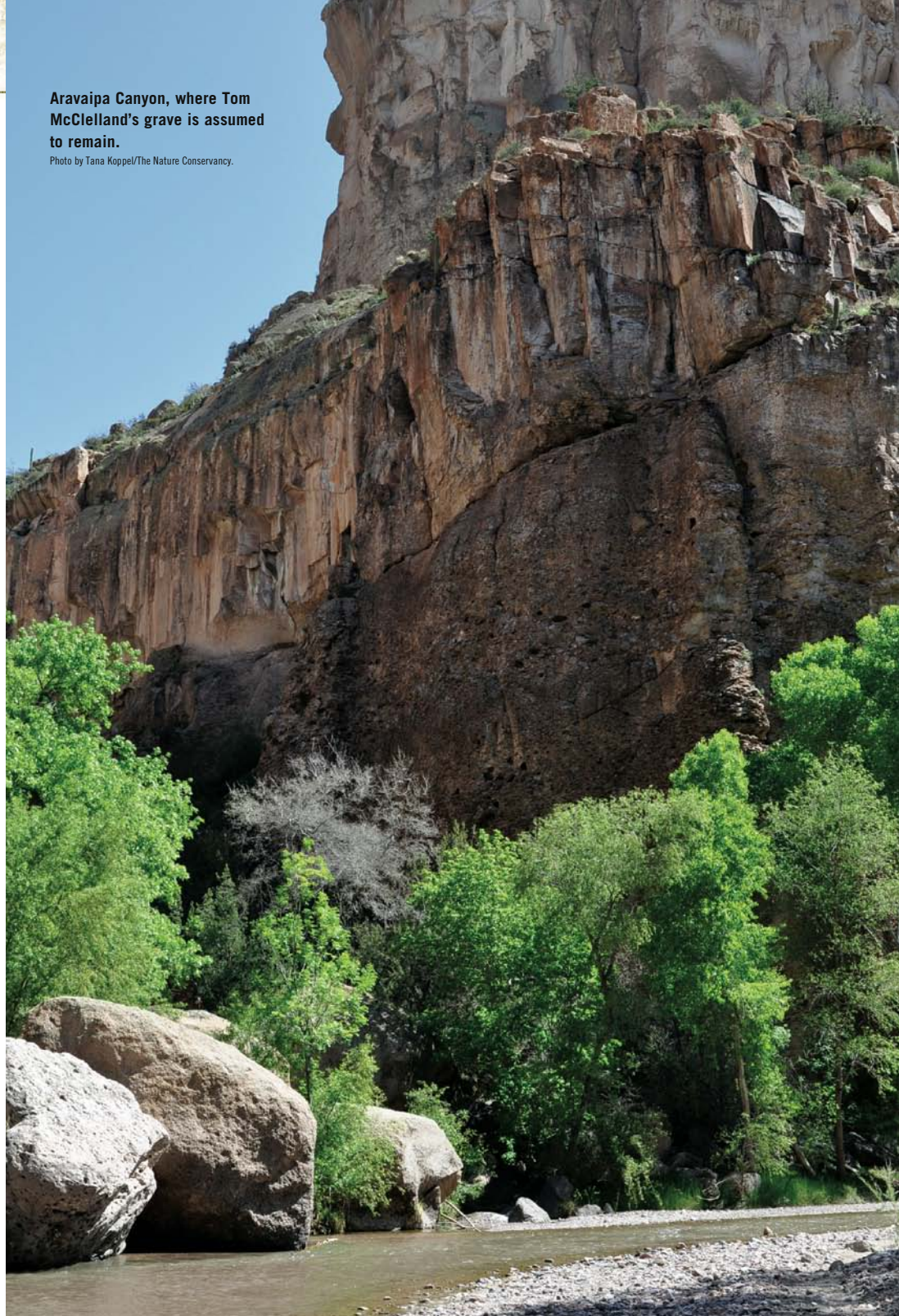
T.T. Tidball, Capt. 5th. Inf. Cal. Vols.²⁸

Captain Tidball's report to his commanding officer (Col. Fergusson) included the following:

The expedition left Tucson, May 2, at dusk; made 5 successive night

Aravaipa Canyon, where Tom McClelland's grave is assumed to remain.

Photo by Tana Koppel/The Nature Conservancy.



marches; built no fires; hid during the day. Surprised and attacked an Apache rancheria in the Cañon de Arivaypi on the morning of the 7th instant. Killed 47 Indians; took ten children prisoners; captured 66 head of stock with the loss of one man-a citizen of Arizona. Returned to Tucson on the 11th have

marched 180 miles in 5 days.²⁹


George Pierce was quick to send word to James McClelland, writing on May 20 to express his sympathy and provide information. "Tom was like a brother to me, when I lay wounded for a time after an attack on the mine he took care of me." He added that arrangements had

been concluded for Tom to be manager in the government workshop at the Tucson Post at a salary of \$1,259 per year. "The poor boy's heart was set upon making money to send home." He promised to return Tom's profits for the hay and ox team contracts and to audit Col. Lally's accounts of Tom's deposits.³⁰

Pierce's words seem genuine. He was obviously shocked and saddened by the loss of his friend and coworker, but he did not follow

his noncompliance. McClelland made further inquiries into ex-army Lally's background. Acquaintances told him Lally was a drunkard and had considerable gambling debts.

McClelland doggedly pursued every lead to find both Lally and Pierce. He wrote to the Colt Fire Arms Manufacturing Company, who believed Pierce was still at the post in Tucson but did not know Lally's whereabouts. McClelland's last letter was to the commander

interred at Allegheny Cemetery, never fully gaining resolution or material goods of his son, Tom. 

Betty Bettencourt Dodds lives in Portland, Oregon, and is a former teacher and school psychologist with a passion for researching family history. Her husband, Ralph, is Tom McClelland's second cousin, three times removed.

"The poor boy's heart was set upon making money to send home."

— George Pierce

through with any of the requests from James McClelland. No other letter from Pierce is in the Heinz History Center collection.

In a subsequent letter to Pierce, James McClelland asks for the return of Tom's money and personal effects, specifically the contents of his trunk: "at least return Tom's books, papers, trinkets collected for the sake of Tom's mother, sisters and brothers...so that they will have some mementos.... We have all been much gratified to see the mention of your kind and generous proposal to have Tom's remains brought from the desert to the graveyard at Tucson, if the cost is not prohibitive."³¹ No records of any such re-interment have been found. It is assumed that the gravesite remains in Aravaipa Canyon.

For the next year and a half, James McClelland wrote three letters to Lally and three to Pierce requesting they do the honorable thing and return the money his son earned. There are no letters indicating that Pierce ever replied. However Col. Lally did respond, each letter briefer than the previous one. He was polite and sympathetic but used such excuses as government red tape to explain

of the post in Tucson, after he learned that Pierce might be employed there, but there was no response.³²

McClelland's congressman was James K. Moorhead, who was also the father-in-law of his niece. He asked Hon. Moorhead to make inquiries in Washington, D.C., regarding Lally's character and whereabouts. Moorhead replied that Lally was known to have gambling debts and drinking problems, and possibly could be dead. As a delegate to a Swedenborgian convention, McClelland learned the name of a minister of the church Lally once attended. The minister confirmed the appraisal of Lally—an alcoholic and gambler plus negligent as a father, and possibly, mentally imbalanced.³³

The events of the day complicated his search: raging Civil War Battles, Apache raids on stage mail coaches, delays and destruction of mail. By the end of 1864, James realized he was never going to recover Tom's money (about \$1,000) or his personal effects.

In 1867, President Andrew Johnson appointed James McClelland postmaster of the city of Pittsburgh. He died in 1871 and was

¹ Heinz History Center, Library and Archives, McClelland Papers, MSS #66, Box 8, Folder 6, letter from Tom to mother, San Francisco, 8/19/1861.

² Diane M. T. North, "A Real Class of People in Arizona, a Biographical Analysis of the Sonora Exploring and Mining Company," *Arizona and the West*, Spring, 1960: 261-274; Thomas E. Sheridan, *Arizona, a History* (Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 1995), 65-66.

³ John W. Jordan, Thomas Lynch Montgomery; Ernest Spoffard; Frederic Antes Godcharles, *Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania, Biography: Illustrated*, James H. McClelland, Architect, Builder, Vol. III (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing, 1914) 879-881.

⁴ Elizabeth Moorhead Vermorcken, *Whirling Spindle: the Story of a Pittsburgh Family*, (Pittsburgh: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, 1942), 62.

⁵ Thomas E. Sheridan, *Landscapes of Fraud: Mission Tumacácori, The Baca Float, and the Betrayal of the O'odham* (Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2006), 115-119.

⁶ Diane M. T. North, *Samuel Peter Heintzelman and the Sonora Exploring and Mining Company*, (Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 1980), 19-45; Sheridan, *Arizona, a History*, 62-65.

⁷ HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 6, letter Tom to uncle, San Francisco, 8/23/1861.

⁸ L. Boyd Finch, *Confederate Pathway to the Pacific: Major Sherod Hunter and Arizona Territory, C.S.A.* (Tucson, Ariz.: The Arizona Historical Society, 1996) 60-61.

⁹ Eugene Nelson, "United States Mail Routes in Southern Arizona Before the Civil War," (*The Heliograph*, vol. 1, no. 1, 1987, Tucson, Ariz.: Western Postal History Museum, 1987-2000), 20-21.

¹⁰ Andrew E. Masich, *The Civil War in Arizona: the Story of the California Volunteers, 1861-1865* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2006), 10-11; Finch, *Confederate Pathway to the Pacific*, Ch. 8; Donald S. Frazier, *Blood & Treasure – Confederate Empire in the Southwest* (College Station, Texas: A&M Univ. Press, 1995), 54-55.

¹¹ *The Daily Alta California*, September 2, 1861 (Veridian digital library) <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/newsucr/cgi-bin/newsucr?a=d&d>.

¹² HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 6, letter Tom to mother, San Francisco, 8/19/1861.

¹³ HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 6, letter Tom to mother, San Francisco, 9/16/1861.

- ¹⁴ Heintzelman Mine. <http://www.gvrhc.org/Library/HeintzelmanMine.html>.
- ¹⁵ HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 6, letter Tom to Parents, San Francisco, 11/4/1861.
- ¹⁶ HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 6, letter Tom to Mary, Hermosillo 12/30/1861.
- ¹⁷ HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 7, letter Tom to uncle, Cerro Colorado 5/25/1862; Finch, *Confederate Pathway to the Pacific*, 133-134; Thomas Edwin Farish, *History of Arizona, Volume II* (Phoenix, Ariz. And San Francisco: Filmer Bros. Electrotype Co. 1915-18), 60-63; John Ross Browne, *Adventures in the Apache Country: a tour through Arizona and Sonora* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1871), Ch. XXVI, The Cerro Colorado.
- ¹⁸ Thomas E. Sheridan, *Arizona, A History* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1995), 62-63.
- ¹⁹ HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 7, letter Tom to parents, Cerro Colorado Mine, 7/13/1862.
- ²⁰ James E. Sherman; Barbara H. Sherman, *Ghost Towns of Arizona* (Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma, 1969), 23-25.
- ²¹ Masich, *The Civil War in Arizona*, Ch. 2 "Arizona."
- ²² HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 7, letter Tom to parents, Tucson, 3/11/1863.
- ²³ HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 7, letter Tom to parents, Tucson, 3/12/1863.
- ²⁴ HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 7, letter Tom to parents, Tucson, 4/21/1863.
- ²⁵ *Pittsburgh Evening Gazette*, Saturday, June 20, 1863, copy obtained from HHC L&A.
- ²⁶ HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 8, letters from father to Fergusson and Tidball, Pittsburgh, 6/26/1863. Note: Colonel David Fergusson's name is written "Ferguson" by both James McClelland and Captain Thomas Tidball in their handwritten letters.
- ²⁷ Farish, *History of Arizona, Vol. II*, 154-155; *The Daily Alta California*, September 11, 1863, as cited in Masich, *The Civil War in Arizona*, 256-260.
- ²⁸ HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 8, letter Tidball to father, Fort Bowie, 9/25/1863.
- ²⁹ Brig. Gen. Richard H. Orton, A.G., US Army, Sacramento, *Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1867*, "Remarks on Return of Company K, for May 1863" (Sacramento: Supt. State Printing, 1890), 671, <http://book.google.com/books?id>.
- ³⁰ HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 8, letter Pierce to father, Tucson, 5/20/1863.
- ³¹ HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 8, letter from father to Pierce, Pittsburgh, 7/8/1863.
- ³² HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 9, letter father to Commanding Officer, Tucson, 11/17/1864.
- ³³ HHC L&A, McClelland Papers, MSS#66, Box 8, Folder 9, letter Hoskins to father, 7/14/1864, Gardiner, Maine.



Sunnylee, built 1875 by Tom's brother, Dr. James H. McClelland Jr., still overlooks Fifth Avenue at Wilkins. Tom and his siblings grew up at 90 Webster Avenue as some of the original settlers of the Lower Hill district.

HHC L & A, McClelland Collection, MSP#111, Box RC 45 Folder 9.

THE MCCLELLAND COLLECTION

About 20 years ago, Historical Society staff embarked on a collecting effort that yielded incredible records and artifacts related to the McClelland family. The trove of materials was found at Sunnylee, a home which still stands in the East End neighborhood of Shadyside at Fifth and Wilkins avenues. Tom's younger brother—Dr. James H. McClelland Jr.—a founder of Shadyside Hospital, had his office in the home, where he and his wife Rachel raised their two daughters Sarah and Rachel. The sisters retained ownership of the home and Rachel lived there until she passed away in 1982. The house and its contents were left to a fellow artist and caretaker of Rachel, Robert Meyerjack. His family offered museum and archives staff the opportunity to cull through three generations of McClelland family material to collect and preserve their stories.

The collection consists of more than 150 linear feet of archival material and 700-plus artifacts reflecting the life of a prominent local family that settled in the region in the early 1800s. They lived for more than a century in Pittsburgh's Shadyside neighborhood, but the materials also document the rise of institutionalized medical care, the practice of homeopathic medicine, local politics, social conditions, and the work of a Pittsburgh artist.

Fifteen of Tom's letters are found in the collection. Four from San Francisco were written on tissue-thin paper, and over time, the ink from the writing on the back bled through to the front, resulting in a mishmash of characters, almost impossible to interpret. Since there were no copy machines, it is fortunate that James McClelland made copies of his own letters. There are 47 letters altogether: the 15 from Tom plus 18 from James McClelland and others from Tidball, Pierce, Lally, Hon. Moorhead, etc.

Rich in correspondence, educational materials, diaries, scrapbooks, travel souvenirs, newspaper clippings, and organizational material, the collection offers a cross-generational survey of life in the city from the mid-19th century through the 20th. The artifacts provide information on Dr. McClelland's medical career and work, as well as daughter Sarah's career in local and state politics and Rachel's life as a painter. The home they lived in survives as a boutique hotel and restaurant as well serving as a testament to a way of life now preserved in the collections of the History Center.