Paulin Guiver
AKA *Pauline Weaver*

Adventurer, Trapper and Mountain Man

Paulin de Jesus Guiver (Pauline Weaver), an early explorer of the Prescott area. b.1800 - d.1867

The earliest history of what is now Arizona reflects the exploits of adventurers, fur trappers and mountain men whose bold explorations paved the way for future settlers. Such was the lore and life ***and the legend*** of Paulin de Jesus Guiver (also known as Pauline Weaver), one of the earliest frontiersmen to explore the area that would become Arizona's Territorial Capital, Prescott.

Born in Tennesse in 1800, his given name had been Powell, but his first name varied between Paolin, Powleen, Pawleen, Pawlino, Paulin and Pauline, depending on which culture crossed his path. He became identified with early Prescott when Captain Nathaniel Pishon led a military party from Santa Fe to the gold fields of the nearby Bradshaw Mountains in mid-August 1863. While encamped along Granite Creek, they encountered a solitary Pauline Weaver, apparently hunting — hence, the probable origin of his mis-named moniker as "Prescott's first citizen." The Walker Party had arrived in the Prescott area almost four months earlier.

Little is known of Weaver's early life on the frontier, but it's known he had settled at San Gorgonio (about 30 miles from San Bernardino, California) and claimed this key mountain crossing in 1845. It was there he connected with Commodore Stockton during the early stages of the War with Mexico. This resulted in his accompanying Kit Carson and John C. Frémont on their trek to connect with General Kearney and his troops in Southern California, and later to serve as a guide for the Mormon Battalion.

After the Mexican War and throughout the 1850s, Weaver was a trapper, gold-seeker and frontiersman ranging from Yuma to Mohave, Gila City to the Bradshaws. During the early Civil War period, he became a scout for General Carleton and the California Column in routing the Confederates from the Southwest. Carleton wrote:

> "(Weaver) knew the country and the Indians well. He was pretty much an Indian, himself, and liked to scout far ahead of us. He had been so much alone that his speech was part-English, part-Spanish, with a few Indian words thrown in for good measure."

By early 1864, Weaver was an Army scout at Fort Whipple, and was described by Judge Joseph Pratt Allyn as,

> "...the opposite of (Joseph) Walker in every respect; garrulous to a fault, (Weaver) tells large stories until he has the reputation of a sort of Arizona *Munchausen*, impulsive and with a failing memory."

It was there and at Fort McDowell he worked as a spy and guide. In November 1866, he was permanently assigned to Camp Lincoln (Camp Verde), where he remained until his death in June 1867.

His efforts to bring peace among the diverse people of the Arizona and California frontier did not always bear fruit, but he was generally well respected, contributed to local folklore, and earned his place as an important figure in Arizona history.

– **Submitted by Sharlot Hall Museum**, *where the memorial (at left) honors Weaver, and where Ms. Hall eulogized Weaver's impact on local history in 1929.*