

Dear Sir: I am inquiring about maps (1880-1894) or information about these mining districts. Clark Co. was part of Lincoln Co. until 1909. At the Desert Valley Museum in Mesquite, where we have original records — There is an old mining book that includes the information listed on page 4. I would really appreciate any maps of the area close to that period. I do not recognize the name Koondaba — however, there is a large white rock on the mt. South of Mesquite that is known even today



United States of America  
State of Nevada Lincoln Co. page 1

We the undersigned citizens of the United States, Do, under and in pursuance of the laws of Congress regulating mines, and water for mining purposes, hereby locate and claim the Land within the following boundaries, to gather with all the water that now, or may hereafter arise thereon (after development) for Mining, Milling or smelting purposes in connection with the Christmas Gift The Stewart and Gould mine

Beginning at a monument of stone 20 rods northerly from this mound and note, thence Easterly 20 rods; Thence southerly 80 rods; thence westerly 40 rods; thence northerly 80 rods. thence Easterly 20 rods to place of beginning containing 20 acres taken as unoccupied Government land known as the West Koonob Springs

Located Jan. 10, 1900

W. B. Pace  
A. L. Stewart  
H. W. Gould

Recorded this the 12 day of April 1900  
W B Pace  
Recorder

The Title to This Page Was  
Koonob Springs



as White Rock. It can  
easily be seen from the  
Town. If you do not  
have information could (2)  
you please forward this  
on to some other dept.  
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Verde Hughes  
21 N Willow St  
Mesquite, NV  
89027



# Notice

Miners of White Rock Springs

Whereas the local district regulations are, in our opinion, incomplete, and the records thereof kept at a distance of from ten to twenty miles from the interests and prospects of the miners of this vicinity, - Therefore -

Notice is hereby given, that a meeting of the miners of this vicinity will be held at the camp of Pace, Ballaway & Co. near White Rock Springs on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December A.D. 1880, at 6 p.m. for the purpose of organizing a new mining district and attending to such other business as may be brought before the meeting -

White Rock Springs  
November 19. 1880

Wm B Pace  
L. H. Ballaway  
George W. Ballaway  
Jos S. Huntsman

White Rock Springs  
December 1<sup>st</sup> - 1880  
H. Miners



White Rock Mining  
District 1881  
(15 mines and four springs)

Koonabba Mining  
District 1894  
(15 mines and one spring)

- mining claims
  - water rites
  - assessment work
  - organization
  - by-laws
- 

All this is found in this  
original record of all 30  
mines are named.



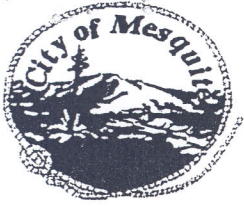
Beginning at a point ten miles due south of Koonob Springs in Lincoln County State of Nevada; thence West to the Rio Virgin; thence Northwesterly following the center of the main channel of the said Rio Virgin to its intersection with the east-boundary line of the State of Nevada; thence South on said State line to a point due east of the place of beginning; Thence west to place of beginning: shall be known and is hereby named and designated the Koonobba Mining District and that we claim all the rights and privileges guaranteed to Mining districts by the laws of Congress and the State of Nevada.

The following by laws were presented read and adopted

By-laws of the  
Koonobba Mining District

Sec. 1 A District recorder shall be elected from among and by a majority vote of the Mining claim owners in the District on the first Tuesday in





## Brief History of the City of Mesquite Nevada

They say that the third time is a charm. That's just the way it was for the proud families who fought to create a life for themselves in a place called Mesquite Flats.

In the middle of the late eighteen hundreds, under the direction of their leaders, members of the Mormon Church spread throughout the large territory of Deseret. Those pioneers created settlements in key locations to establish routes of travel and trade. At a religious conference held in St. George in December of 1879, families from the settlements of Panaca, St. George, and Pine Valley were asked to organize a new community forty miles south along the Virgin River.

By May of 1882, fifteen families and a total of seventy-one people were successfully farming the area known as Mesquite Flat. Members of the small community had managed to dig long canals to irrigate their fields of lucerne, wheat and cotton, etc. Homes were first built from adobe or rocks. Later, lumber from the nearby mountains was transported to the area and frame houses were built.

At 1610 feet above sea level, the life blood of this high desert community was the Virgin River. However, a heavy rainstorm at any time of year could turn the Virgin River into a raging torrent. It was such a force that gathered itself against the community of Mesquite Flat on a hot day in June of 1882. Six miles of irrigation canal were broken in fifty different places by the torrents of the afternoon thunderstorm. For a community dependent on this canal, it was a devastating and almost insurmountable loss. Work began immediately to repair the damage but it was not long until the river had forced everyone out.

In 1887, Dudley Leavitt, his five wives and 38 of his 50 children (eleven of his babies had died, and one more child was born to Janet the following year, making 51 children) began a four-year campaign against the elements but they, too, were forced to leave.

Finally, in 1894, hearty pioneers engaged in a third attempt at taming Mesquite Flat. Six young families from Bunkerville rebuilt the canal and established themselves permanently along the banks of the Virgin. 320 acres of land were fenced and lots were divided among the families by lottery. With 25 cents as a down payment, and \$1.25 per acre, the financing of the land was established; Mesquite Flat was a permanent settlement.

Over the next 80 or more years, the town experienced the advances of modernization. School was first held in private homes, then in a tent, before a permanent school was built. Two years later, Nephi Johnson was named postmaster, and he is credited with suggesting that the town change its name from 'Mesquite Flats' to 'Mesquite'.

At the turn of the century a telephone line was connected from Mesquite to Bunkerville. Running water in one of the new homes was the highlight of 1923. This was not available for everyone until 1938. About 1933 U. S. Highway 91 was completed, connecting Mesquite with a major transportation route to large communities in the West. When electricity from the newly finished Hoover Dam reached town on the evening of March 13, 1939, every porch light in town was on to celebrate the occasion.

Modernization continued to play a role in the future of the community. In 1973, Interstate I 15 was completed through the rugged Virgin River Gorge and the freeway from Mesquite to the west coast was a reality.

A significant change in the community came in the 1980s. The Western Village Motel was sold to become the Peppermill (later Oasis) Hotel and Casino. Momentum gathered in 1984 as the town officially incorporated and the City Council began to lay plans for growth. In 1991 a new high school was completed, and Primex Plastics began operation, leading the way for industrial expansion. The Virgin River Hotel and Casino opened its doors adding a second major hotel and casino to the area.

In the next few years Casa Blanca, Rancho Mesquite, and Mesquite Star Hotels and Casinos were added. Also many new businesses, schools, churches, golf courses and homes were built. The growth of Mesquite is phenomenal as the people continue 'PIONEERING WITH PRIDE'.



RECEIVED

FEB 25 2000

NBMG Information Office

## VIRGIN RIVER -- "A NAME OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN"

There are several different stories about the origin of the name.

One version is thought to be a corruption of Spanish 'Rio de la Virgen.' "River of the Virgin," which appears in early documents. Whether this name originated with Spanish traders in the area or with early Spanish explorers is undetermined. A map of the Dominguez-Escalante expedition of 1776 designates the river of 'Rio Sulfureo de las Piramides,' and Jedediah Strong Smith named it 'Adams River' in 1826, for John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States." (From Carlson's book 'Nevada Place Names' page 239...).

Jedediah Strong Smith, with a party of nineteen men and two Indian women, set out July 13, 1827 to retrace his steps of the previous year to California. He followed the same route, but met with Indian troubles when his troops became divided in crossing the river. This disaster cost him all his property. Ten men were killed and the two women taken captive by a surprise attack of the Mohaves. He and the remaining men succeeded in reaching California, and then returned by the way of Oregon. It was on this second trip that the Virgin River is said to have received it's name; perhaps naming it 'Virgin River' for one of his men, Thomas Virgen, who had been killed along the river by the Indians. But somewhere along the line the spelling was corrupted to 'Virgin.' (Las Vegas Review Journal - August 18, 1974)

Another story is: The river begins in Zion Canyon and the mountains around there. One of the small towns at the mouth of Zion Canyon is named 'Virgin'. Since the river runs through the town, the river was also named 'Virgin'.

Father Escalante noted the "Valley of Virgin" in his 1776 travel log. Jedediah Smith mentioned it in 1825. In 1844 John C. Fremont had written "The Rio Virgin... is the dreariest river I have ever seen." Captain May of Mexican war fame in 1854 mentioned it. Padre Carceas -- in 1776, and Peter Skeen, Ogden, Utah, referred to it in 1826.

Armijo, an early Spanish explorer found the river flowed into the Colorado River and first called it "Rio Severo" - the Sevier River is in Central Utah - but the Sevier river runs north instead of south and does not flow into the Colorado. The Virgin River is the only stream that can be the Colorado affluent which the Spanish party followed, it meets all requirements.

The Virgin River had been given other names. Previous to Armijo's christening of it, Escalante had called it the 'Rio Sulfurso' from the sulphur springs by Hurricane, Utah which enter the river and affect its water near where the Escalante party crossed the stream.

According to some of the old settlers this river in 1861 was but a creek that could be jumped across in many places. During the first years of settlement young boys, herding cattle on the grassy bottoms, used to play 'tag' across the stream by using long cottonwood or black willow vaulting poles.

It was also called "Pah-Roosh" by the Indians according to Maurine Whipple in her book "The Giant Joshua."

In the territory of Arizona there is a legend that says if you drink from the Hassayampa River you can never tell the truth again until you drink from the Virgin River. The Hassayampa rises in central Arizona and runs through Wickenburg south west to the rivers that empty into the Colorado River. Looking at it today our only wonder is how anyone lived long enough to spin a yarn, perhaps in the long ago it wasn't all that bad to look at.



NEVADA BUREAU OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

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28 February 2000

Mr. Verde Hughes  
21 N. Willow Street  
Mesquite, NV 89027

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Your inquiry into the White Rock and Koonabba Mining Districts was forwarded to me. I checked our mining district files and our computer databases, but we have nothing on either. It looks like these districts overlapped what later became known as the Bunkerville District. Joe Tingley, the geologist on our staff who wrote NBMG Report 47 "Mining Districts of Nevada", never heard of these districts but will enter your info into his files.

I can continue the research into the University of Nevada, Reno, library and the Historical Society, but I would have to start charging our \$40 an hour custom search fee. However, there are things you can do to continue your research. Because of the county split, as I understand it, you have to go to Pioche to research Clark County records prior to 1909. You would look for mining claims in the district location books (assuming these books still exist) or in county location books (assuming they were recorded with the county prior to 1900). When claims were sold, they were recorded in deeds (are not required to be recorded with the county, but most are). You might find references to Koonabba spring in the claims or their associated records. Likely, someone claimed the water rights to this spring. You may find this in the records of water rights and deeds if the rights were sold. The public survey was done around 1880. You may research the General Land Office maps and survey notes, which are kept at the BLM. You might check court records in case there was litigation involving the spring or local mining claims or property. And of course you can research anything that UNLV and the Historical Society may have, such as donated records or old newspaper articles. You may also contact State Archives in Carson City, but you may have to physically show up to do research there.

I hope this helps your research. Please contact us again if you have anymore questions.

Sincerely,



David A. Davis  
Geologic Information Specialist