

1930 – 31

Once while hiking, we could smell food, good food. Hot bread, beans, and apple pie. We followed our hungry noses and came upon a ranch. It was the Dandrea Ranch. Yes, we got fed and “mmmm” was that ever good. We became to know these people and enjoyed hunting burros in that area.

Lorrene Arilla Pritchett Bykerk, ca: 2001

Louis Dandrea Jr., as a teen was in charge of first leading the teams pulling the ore cars thru the Poland/Walker Tunnel from Walker to Poland.

By the grandson of Louis Dandrea.

<http://forums.ghosttowns.com/showthread.php?18452-Old-Dandrea-Ranch-AZ>

When Louis Sr passed away the kids sold the place to Charlie Orme of Orme School. Back in the late 30's the place was pretty isolated and making the trip there from what I understand was more than an adventure. No one knows for sure who but they are certain as to how the mercury got there. Back in those day days there were a lot of tramp miners who did not pay a lot of attention to who owned what just who was watching. They used the mercury to locate gold, as the mercury would attach itself to any gold it came into contact with made finding nuggets much easier. They did not know or seem to care that the mercury was pretty much there forever. The story is told that back in those days the ranchers in the area would catch miners using this frowned upon method. If you are looking for more history on this area go on line to the Sharlott Hall Museum lots of reference to all of Yavapai County.

### **Geocache Description:**

[http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC168W1\\_old-dandrea-ranch](http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC168W1_old-dandrea-ranch)

Located near Old Dandrea Ranch, which burned down in the Battle Fire of 1972. Hike or drive a high-clearance vehicle in from Five Corners to the north. You can also reach the site from the Senator Highway to the south, but four-wheel drive and perhaps low range-gearing be needed.

Part of the Poland Road Trifecta, along with our McCache (GCCF65) and Tunneling Poland (GCF328).

Located near the site of Old Dandrea Ranch, which burned down in the Battle Fire of 1972, this cache offers insight into the hard work it took to settle this part of Arizona in the late 1800s.

According to Forests and Grasslands - A History of Living With the Land, published by the Yavapai Heritage Foundation, “Louis Dandrea, Sr. and his family settled the Dandrea Ranch in the 1880s. He worked in the Poland Mine mill for many years until it closed in 1913. Then he worked full-time farming down below on his beautiful little ranch raising

fruits, grains and vegetables, much of which he sold in Walker using the Poland-Walker Tunnel as his farm-to-market road.”

You can drive to within a few feet of the cache, but we recommend you park at the ranch (N34 24.551 W112 22.795) and begin your explorations on foot. Here, you can see the ruins of what we are told were the steps leading up into the Dandrea ranch house and the remains of a wall that once belonged to the Dandreas’ root cellar. An old metal water tank is also here, sometimes standing upright; sometimes on its side. Across the road, nearer the cache, is the field old man Dandrea cleared of rocks by hand. The wall you see around the field is built of those rocks. Throughout the area you can see what’s left of the orchards Mr. Dandrea cultivated and harvested.

You can drive into the area from Walker, Poland Junction, or from the Senator Highway. A sedan can easily make the drive to Five Corners (N34 25.179 W112 23.140) from Walker, but might have trouble coming in from Poland Junction. A four-wheel drive vehicle or SUV with moderate ground clearance will have no problem with either route, although you might want to park at Five Points and walk the final 0.8 mile.

The drive from the Senator Highway certainly requires an ATV or smallish four-wheel drive vehicle and perhaps low-range gearing. Full-size SUVs and trucks will find the road north from the Senator Highway challenging. We have found the road blocked by fallen pine trees weakened by bark beetle damage.

You can also hike to the site, using Dandrea Trail #285 from Potato Patch to the northwest, up and over the saddle between Mt. Union and Mt. Davis.

No matter how you come in, be sure to carefully assess road and trail conditions. They are changeable depending on the weather.

The guide Forests and Grasslands - A History of Living With the Land mentioned above offers a series of terrific driving tours throughout Yavapai County. It costs \$5 and can be obtained at the Prescott Chamber of Commerce, 101 S. Cortez, or Sharlott Hall Museum, 415 W. Gurley St., both in Prescott. It’s great fun to combine these historical tours with geocaching.

<http://boards.ancestry.com/thread.aspx?mv=flat&m=4&p=surnames.dandrea>  
[LaurelMyers66](#)

My husband's grandfather was Louis Antonio Dandrea, D'Andrea in Italy. He married Liberata Della Madallena Cerata about 1890. She was from San Rocco Di Premia and they arrived in the USA in 1891. They ranched in the Bradshaw Mtns. and had 4 children: Louis, Alice, Ida (my mother- in-law), and Charles Quinto was the youngest. Uncle Louis was born on the way over. Louis' home in Italy was Domodossola VB, where I believe he was born. They are all deceased now and buried in Prescott, Yavapai, AZ.

There were 3 other D'Andrea's aboard the Le Bourgogne: Oswald, age 32, Louis, age 28, Pierre, age 26, Luke, age 25. I'm not sure of the ages as they had Louis' wrong, nor am I sure of their relationship.

[LaurelMyers66](#)

My husband was Eugene Barber Myers, son of Ida Dandrea, sister of Charles Quinto Dandrea, all born and raised in the Bradshaw Mtns. SE of Prescott, AZ. The ranch was in the mtns. west of Mayer. Louis Antonio D'Andrea and his wife Liberata settled in the mtns. where Grandpa Louis worked as a mining engineer on the "Poland Mine", now called the "Poland Tunnel" as they followed the vein straight through the mtn. Uncle Charlie had a ranch about 1 mile south of the home place and Uncle Louis place was about 1 1/2 miles SE (as a crow flies). The two daughters Alice and Ida married and Aunt Alice moved to Prescott. Ida moved to southern AZ with her husband. When her husband, Franklin Barber Myers, passed away she moved back to the Prescott area. Ida's daughter Frances lives in Duncan in southern AZ and all of our children live in AZ.