

## *Arbuckle's Coffee*

Why this one particular brand you ask? We'll get there, but first here's a little bit of coffee background.

Coffee appears to have to come to us by way of Eastern Africa, then the Middle East, into Europe and eventually in the 1700's across the Atlantic to the America's, where the climate of Central and South America was perfect for coffee growing. By the 1780's the coffee plantations of the America's were supplying half the world's coffee!

Coffee also got a boost of popularity in Colonial America following the Boston Tea Party, as tea then became considered "unpatriotic."

Before the Civil War in America all coffee was sold green, then roasted by any means one could think of: stovetop, home-rigged roaster, open fire, etc. This made for a whole lot of burnt coffee. Then came to the rescue, the Arbuckle brothers of Philadelphia.

The Arbuckle brothers, John and Charles respectively, figured out a way to roast the coffee, then seal it with a sugar and egg glaze that kept the coffee fresh, even on long arduous journeys, like say, the one out West. Sold in nice 1 pound packages that included a peppermint stick, Arbuckle's coffee soon became widely popular throughout the West. No cowboy, farmer, man, woman, or child out West was unfamiliar with Arbuckle's coffee. You can still buy Arbuckle's coffee today, and it still includes the ever-coveted peppermint stick.

A display of Arbuckle's can be found at our General Store, or "Tiendita," here at El Rancho de las Golondrinas. Arbuckle's coffee would have been found in many a general store all over the country, but particularly in the West. This is great object to highlight trade, commerce, shipping, food preservation and general store history here at El Rancho.