

APPEL, NATHAN BENJAMIN

1828-1901

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APPEL, NATHAN BENJAMIN. Born April 14, 1828, in Hochstadt, am Main, Germany. He was well educated, spoke English, German and Spanish fluently and had an understanding of French, Scandinavian, and other romance languages. He came to America when a lad of 16 or 18, landing in New York with scarcely a dollar in his pocket. After a short stay in New York City and vicinity, he drifted to St. Louis, Mo., where the United States troops were outfitting for the Mexican war. He had an opportunity to enlist in the United States cavalry, but being unable to procure a good horse, he gave up the idea. Instead, he scoured a job as a teamster for Tully & Ochoa, army contractors. His duties took him far into Mexico, where the fighting was going on.

After the war, Tully & Ochoa put him in charge of one of their trading posts in New Mexico. Years later, he went into business for himself, locating in Las Cruces, New Mexico. In 1854 he moved to Tubac, Arizona, where he engaged in freighting and merchandising for many years. He freighted between Sonora and Arizona, and later extended his operations to Yuma. He formed a business partnership with Oscar Buckalew for a time. His trains suffered from Apache Indian raids and at the time of his death he had a claim for \$17,000 for Indian depredations pending in Washington.

He acquired an interest in the Patagonia mine, became superintendent and subsequently the owner, but lost it.

He was elected to the First Territorial Legislative Assembly as a member of the House of Representatives from Tubac; served as chief of police of Tucson "in the palmy days of that mining town"; and as deputy sheriff in 1884.

Appel, Nathan Benjamin

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After suffering business reverses, Appel, in September, 1887, went to Los Angeles, at the suggestion of Judge W. F. Fitzgerald, who scoured for him a position in the police force of Los Angeles. The first two years Officer Appel was assigned patrol duty and stationed most of the time at the Southern Pacific Railway. In 1890 he was bailiff of the Los Angeles police court and did most of the interpreting for the court.

Although seventy-three years old, he discharged his official duties efficiently and diligently up to the time of his last illness, On December 29, 1900. He was afflicted with erysipelas of the face, and rheumatism. He died January 5, 1901, in St. Agnes Hospital, Los Angeles, California.

He was survived by four sons; three of them, Horace, Samuel and William were residing in Los Angeles at the time of his death; and three daughters, Mrs. Soto of Wilcox, Arizona; Mrs. Sara A. Carr, Schenectady, N. Y; Mrs. Chas. M. Renaud, Pearce, Arizona.

He became a member of the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society on February 9, 1884. Mr. Appel "left no heritage except a good name to his children."

Appel, Nathan Benjamin

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Arizona Daily Citizen, January 7, 1901, p. 1. co ls. 4 and 5 (carried over).

Appel, H. H., Letter to Wm. J. Osborne, dated Los Angeles, California,

May 21, 1901, Ariz. Pioneers' Historical Society file, Tucson.

Carr, Mrs. Sara A., Letter to Carlos Tully, dated Pittsburgh, Pa.,

May 4, 1922, Pioneers' Society file under Sara Appel (Carr).

Pioneers' Society Minutes, Jan. 13, 1901.

✓ Pioneers' Society Memorial Resolution, Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society,

April 6, 1901.

✓ Weekly Arizonian, January 31, 1869; July 3, 1 - apt pages

✓ Arizona Weekly Citizen, November 29, 1873.

✓ Acts of First Legislative Assembly, 1865, Prescott, Office of Arizona Miner.

✓ Kelly, Geo. H., Legislative History, Arizona 1864-1912, The Manufacturing

Stationers, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona, 1926.

✓ Ferish, Thomas Edwin, History of Arizona, Vol. 3, p. 90.

N. B. Appel an old Pioneer of New Mexico and Arizona now 65 years of age

I arrived at Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1847, my first experience was asking a Mexican how far is to the next town, well sir if you have a good horse you will get there about sun down, if you have a no good horse it will be long in the night.

The next there was a Navajo Indian, in the guard house, for some crime. One day he was outside sitting on a bench, he was called among the soldiers a pet, but before long he stabbed the soldier on guard, and made his escape was overtaken Sergeant and killed on the spot. Next I took some merchandise to a little town above Santa Fe about 25 miles distance. I was doing well and sold goods at very high price, Bleach & Brown & Calico were worth 50 cents a yard, and Grocery's in proportion. This was in 1848, In 52 I went to Socorro. There I met some emigrants, who remained, which were in company with Oatman family, who were all killed by Tonto Apaches on the Gila River and called Oatman flat by the Company which run the Mail Line to S.F. called the Butterfield route. Coming back to the story, I left Socorro and started with stock of goods to Dons Aria, N.M.; there some others who was to wait for me now called Fort Craig, so we be strong enough to go through the Desert, called Jornada del Muerto the distance from Ft. Craig to up the river about 80 miles. When I reached/ ^{now called fort formerly} Craig the party gone, Trai Cristobal and there I was all alone, with my men teams & merchandise. Had not gone fore I found that the people met with the Mescalero

Apaches and several killed and wounded at a place called Mal-paiz. I had to bury the dead and take care of the wounded before I started. I returned to Fort Conrad, 6 miles above Craig and reported it to the Commanding Officer, Major Hard, who at once furnished me with a Escort of U. S. Troops. I arrived at Dons Ana on or about June 20th 52 and remained for one month and then went to Las Cruces, and started my business again, and remained for 2 years and when Gadsden Treaty between the U. S. & Mexico was completed, I moved to Mesilla and remained, until I went to Tucson, this was in 56, and opened business again. I think in 1858, was the first mining done, where Col. Chas. D. Poston was Superintendent for the Sonora Exploring & Mining Co. at what is called now the Cerro Colorado Mines. I also opened a business place in Tubac, which is from said mines about 20 miles, and done considerable business with said Co. I saw also Major Heintzelman of U.S.A. in the mines, and through him I transacted business when Col. S. H. Lathrop was Superintendent. I had advanced to the Co. considerable money & goods, but they failed in paying. All I got was \$1000.00 through the firm, Rogers, Meyers & Co. S.F. Had it not been for the Rebellion, I think I would got paid in full.

Next was the break out of the Rebellion. Coming back, I have forgotten to state about the different murders committed by the Apaches. At the time, when the war broke out, the Salera

or Santa Rita Mining Co. was to quit the operations of the mines. As I had my business in Tubac, only from 12 to 15 miles from them, I was called to *move* their mining materials and other articles to Tubac. After I hauled away from the mines about 3 loads, and on the last one, the Apaches attacked us, and got away with my 60 mules in number and a Bell mare, that ended the Teaming. Fort Buchanan was abandoned by the U. S. Troops, and the inhabitants were left to the mercy of the Apaches and other robbers.

By the way I have already given you the capture of Mrs. Pago formerly of the Pennington family and the little girl Mercedes Saiz, afterwards the wife of Chas. Shibell, since died and him now resides in Tucson. The Bennington family was in very bad luck; first was killed the son, Jim, next the father & younger son, all whom were killed by the Apaches. Also the husband of Mrs. Page was killed, and then her became a Mrs. Scott, now at Tucson.

During the Confederates were in Tucson there was a few men left at Cerro Colorado Mines, which were murdered by some Mexicans who names were one of them was the Brother of Col. Chas. D. Poston and the other man was a German by the name Miller.

58- The Sutton family had a station on the Gila river at the ^{for overland mail route} Agua Caliente/. One morning, there was only at home the mother and one of the boys. As he stepped out to the door he saw an Indian leaning over the picket fence. He went back for his shot gun and killed the Apache, and went In to the house and told

his mather that he got some fresh beef for breakfast. No more Apache came afterwards, near.

64- Legislator, Tael Road. Goldberg
Tucson to San Xavier

Divorces :

63- for the Gold Diggins, had several Yaqui Indians with me, which I brought from Sonora, were good gold hunters but on a/c of no water they dry washers. I brought a 8 mule wagon loaded with provision to furnish them and half of the gold was to be for them and other half for myself. It did not pay after several weeks of experience. I then discharged them and sold my balance of provision to the Co. of the rich claim, which was on the big hill near Weaver, called the Antelope Creek. I made more money out of provision, then hunting for gold. By the way when I started for the Diggins we had to go across the Desert from Salt river to the Hassayampa, a distance of 54 miles without water. There was a tank half way In the Mountains about a mile & half from the road called by the Mexicans the Tinaja Basin which caught water In rainy season but at the time that was in the month of October but none could be found. Several wagons & Mex carts were abandoned and goods & provisions left in the Desert. One of the carts was loaded with liquor called Mescal, which was ^{cached?} cashed by the owner named Don Juan Fernandez, a Spaniard. A lot of Maricopa Indians came along and discovered the Mescal and commenced

drinking very freely. They came very intoxicated, and filled the vases with the liquor & started back for Salt River for water. They had got within four miles of the River, but the liquor gave out so they started back again to the place to get more of the fire water, a distance of thirty miles. There they all perished for want of water.

Continued

1863 to 64 4 Women & baby killed
Mules & horses taken
Products destroyed

Sonora Line

Employees on Overland Mail Route, Dragoons
Spring killed by Apaches amongs the

1859- Uncle of Buckley Superintendent of Route.
Teamsters by Mexicans
*) 15 men killed/ at Apache Pass amongs the owner
1860) of a large train loaded with flour for New
Mexico .

1864 A German & Family killed and robbed by
Apaches between what is called now Pantano &
Tucson. \$14000 money lost & a lot of
merchandise belonging to Antonio Perez.

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near Tucson
At Blue Water a family killed consisting of
Mr. Baker & wife and a small boy having a station
for Overland Mail Route by Mexicans.

I first came to Tucson in 1856, but my stay then was short, as I concluded to settle in Mesilla, New Mexico, where I opened a store. I returned to Arizona, however, in 1858. At that time I had with me several wagons of merchandise, and traveled a long way without any water. Near Stein's Pass there were some small holes containing the precious fluid and these were called "Little Springs." At Stein's Pass I met an Indian Agent named Dr. Steck who had concluded a treaty with a band of 700 Apaches camped near the water holes. These Indians refused to allow me to take water for my mules. I appealed to the Agent who had a company of mounted soldiers at his disposal, but the Doctor declined to assist me and said that I must take my chances.

This I forthwith proceeded to do. I made my teamsters and the herder take their guns and go to the Little Springs where they stood guard. Then I took my mules one by one to the water and let them slake their thirst. The Apaches looked on savagely, but made no further demonstrations.

When I reached Tucson, where I had already opened a store I divided my goods and took a part of the merchandise and proceeded to Tubac where I dealt with the Sonora and Exploring and Mining Company and also with the Santa Rita Mining Company which was then exploiting the Salera Mines.

When the rebellion broke out I went to these mines to haul away to Tubac some of the property of the Santa Rita Mining Company. While making my last trip the Apaches attacked my outfit

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at night, some five miles away from Tubac and got away with all my stock consisting of 60 mules and one horse, leaving me unable to move my wagons for lack of animals.

In 1861 Fort Buchanan was abandoned and the troops removed to New Mexico; consequently, the Apaches grew very bold and a great number of people were killed by them right in the vicinity of the fort. I recollect that a couple of Sonorans were murdered by the Indians within two or three miles of it. At that time I was for some time with the owner of the Mowry Silver Mines, who was Sylvester Mowry. The graveyard was located between the mines and the smelting works. At the time of my departure this cemetery had already twenty silent occupants, eighteen of which had been assassinated by the Apaches right near the Patagonia and Mowry Mines.

Upon another occasion, the date of which has escaped me, Tully and Ochoa's ox teams and my mule teams were engaged hauling government freight to Fort Goodwin. When in the vicinity of the place now called Pantano, where the road turns off toward Tres Alamos, the Apaches ran off nearly all our stock in the nighttime. Snow had fallen in the night which aided us to track and recover a few of the cattle. I was short only six mules.

Tully & Ochoa's wagon master and some of the teamsters concluded to pursue the Indians. I lent them some mules and they started. At noon they returned unsuccessful and minus two of the

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men whom the Indians had slain and two wounded. Their losses would still have been heavier had I not proceeded to a little round hill with some of my men, close to a cañon where the fighting was going on. The Apaches perceived us and they ceased firing and withdrew.

I was returning from Sonora after a business trip in 1863, in company with Tully & Ochoa's wagons, loaded with Mexican products. At a place called El Sibuto or El Sillero, a band of about sixty Apaches attacked us about four o'clock in the afternoon. We fought them until our ammunition gave out. The Indians captured four Mexican women who were traveling with us as passengers and soon afterward put them to death. A small baby belonging to one of the unfortunate females was also barbarously butchered by one of the fiends who took it by the legs and swinging against a wagon wheel dashed its brains out. A boy about 12 years old was captured and a year afterwards he returned to Fort Goodwin and cared for by Capt. Pollack, U.S.A.

On that occasion I was shot in one of my fingers and received a lance thrust in my left wrist. Two of the teamsters were killed and a third wounded. Nearly all of Tully & Ochoa's mules were carried off by the Indians.

I had, like nearly every man who freighted or mined in Arizona in those days, several more adventures with the Apaches, but the dates of those occurrences have escaped me. To show, however, that in those perilous days of the Savage-beridden

Territory a man who traveled abroad carried his life in his hand, I will mention the names of some of my old time friends and acquaintances who met with death at the hands of the Apaches, and the places where they met with an untimely fate.

Doc Titus, between the Patagonia Mine and Santa Cruz
American Indian Joe, " " "
Forest, at the Mowry Mine
Mills, near La Noria
Stevens, " " "
John Garvin, near the Mowry Mine
Tom Venable, near Davidson Spring
Curley, 6 miles this side of the Patagonia Mine
Lieutenant Stewart, near Davidson Spring
Maj. Wrightsen, Supt. of Salera Mines, within $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of
Ft. Buchanan " " " "
One Teamster, " " " "
Sergt. Baker, near Davidson Spring
Three Mexican laborers, " "
Pope, between Rillito and Tucson
Lameson, " " "
John Donaldson, " "
A Mexican boy, " "
Private Irvin, 21st Infantry, as escort with me to Camp Apache
George Todenworth, in the Chiricahuas
Two unknown men, " " "
Lucero, mail carrier, at Apache Pass
Page, Canada del Oro
Tarbox, at La Canoa
Col. Stone, Dragoon Summit
Nick Rogers, Sulphur Spring Station
wells, " " "
Five Americans and a Mexican *Teamster* at the Salera Mines (one
of them was Grovenor)
Gabriel Saavedra, near Tubac
Old Pennington, at Sonoita
Jim Pennington, at Cerritos
Green Pennington, at Sonoita
Seven Mexicans, between Mowry Mines and Santa Cruz
J. B. Wooster at Talo Tarada near the Mission of Tumacacori
One woman and her baby
One West Indian negro cook, near Patagonia Mines
Mrs. Jaramilla and baby, between Tubac and the line
Two Mexican teamsters, " " "
and also two Mexicans, between Calabazas & Agua Frio
Antonio Jaramilla, Canada del Oro
Seven Mexican teamsters " " "
In the same place a number of Tully & Ochoa's men & mules were
slaughtered by the Apaches.

Although I was not personally present at the time I have a recollection of another massacre by the Indians in the winter of 1860. Jose Antonio Montoya had started from Sonora for the Rio Grande with ten wagon loads of flour. My wagons in charge of my brother-in-law Don Romualdo Torres had started one day before Montoya, also with flour for the Rio Grande. He camped one night at Bear Springs on the other side of Old Fort Bowie. Although Cochise's band was in the neighborhood, the Indians did not molest my brother-in-law.

But the next day Montoya's train was attacked by Cochise in the heart of Apache Pass and he and twelve men, of whom three were Americans, were killed. The whole train was then burned by the Indians and all the mules carried off.