

# BERRY, WILLIAM JAMES

I 0001

BERRY, WILLIAM JAMES, born in Pennsylvania about 1818; came to Arizona from California late in 1862; located 200 feet of the "Chester" lode in the Weaver Mining District, in what is now Northern Yuma County, September 7, 1863; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864 at La Paz, A. T., age 46, born in Pennsylvania, resident in Arizona 18 months, married, family in California, occupation - Lawyer and Gunsmith; contributed \$20 in gunsmithing to the second Woolsey expedition against the Apache Indians at La Paz, May 1, 1864; admitted to the bar of the 2d Judicial District at La Paz, June 28, 1864; received 48 votes for Delegate to Congress, first Territorial election, July 18, 1864.

Member of the first Board of Supervisors of Yavapai County, A.T., 1865-66; Clerk of the Board and District Attorney of Yavapai County, 1868; listed, U. S. Census, July 1870, at Prescott, Yavapai County, A. T., age 52, occupation - Lawyer, property valued at \$1,500; commissioned as the first Register, U. S. Land Office, Prescott, A. T., April 17, 1869, and served from July 10, 1869 to October 14, 1871; Member, Board of School Trustees, Prescott, 1872; came from Cerbat to Yuma, 1873; editor of the Arizona Sentinel from October 18, 1873 until December 30, 1876; District Attorney of Yuma County, 1875-76; he published what follows in the Sentinel of July 10, 1875:

## WANTED:

A nice, plump, healthy, good-natured, good-looking, domestic and affectionate lady to correspond with.

Object - matrimony.

She must be between 22 and 35 years of age.

She must be a believer in God and immortality, but no sectarian.

She must not be a gad-about or given to scandal, but must be one who will be a help-mate and companion, and who will endeavor to make home happy.

Such a lady can find a correspondent by addressing the Editor of this paper, Post Office box 9, Yuma, A.T.

Photographs exchanged!!

If anybody don't like our way of going about this interesting business, we don't care. It's none of their funeral.

When he sold the Sentinel he printed the following farewell on December 30, 1876:

In taking leave of those with whom I have long held intercourse through these columns, it seems to me proper to drop the plural pronoun, the editorial we, and use the simple personal pronoun.. In fact I have never properly been we, since I have been running this journal, as I have had no companion to share the sanctum with me, not even a dog, or cat, or pig or chicken, except sometimes when a neighbor's hen would come in and lay an egg in a box behind the press..9

Well, kind friends, I have tried to publish a good paper, and it is with pride and satisfaction that when I review the files of the Sentinel I can find nothing that I ever wrote that I would wish to blot. I have always been the firm friend of the right and the uncompromising enemy of the wrong. I have always advocated the principles of justice, mercy and truth, and I have never sacrificed truth to policy or expediency. Since the Sentinel has been under my control no word has ever been admitted to its columns that could injure any person in reputation or property. I have advocated the best interests of the Territory and its people without sectionalism or partiality.

The Prescott Arizona Enterprise, of April 3, 1878, printed this item :

Old Time rs, - F. G. Christie is residing on the Bonito, in New Mexico. Judge Wm. J. Berry is repairing guns and pistols in Southern California. Both gentlemen came here at an early day and are well known to a ll old Ari zonans.

BERRY, WILLIAM JEANES

-3-

The following appeared in the Arizona Citizen, Tucson, June 23, 1885:

W. J. Berry formerly of Tucson is a prominent candidate for mayor of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The judge has some eccentricities but they are backed by bushels of good sense.

The Prescott Courier made reference to him at different times:

October 28, 1882 - - Wm. J. Berry formerly of this town and county is, we believe, now in Clifton. He wore the first plug hat ever seen in Prescott.

June 9, 1886 - - Our venerable friend, Judge Berry, wants to be a Justice of the Peace in Albuquerque. Seeing his name in the Albuquerque Journal brings to mind the fact that he was here just 22 years ago, on a hot trail for Congress. Long time since, Judge, between drinks - of water.

May 10, 1888 - - Judge Wm. J. Berry has improved in health since his return to his old home, Prescott.

July 21, 1890 - - Judge Wm. J. Berry, formerly of Prescott, is at present in Tucson. He ran for Delegate to Congress in 1864.

This statement in the Florence Arizona Enterprise of December 7, 1889, indicates that he moved from Prescott to Florence before he went on to Tucson:

Judge W. J. Berry has secured a room for his gunsmith shop in F. M. Griffin's house, on Court Street, near Bailey street where he will be pleased to meet all persons in need of his services.

In reporting his death the Tucson Arizona Star commented:

Many an old timer will remember Judge Berry. He had been a man of considerable ability as an editor and lawyer and was possessed of many of the peculiar qualifications so necessary for the pioneer's success. For instance at one time his sign hung out in Prescott as W. J. Berry, Attorney at Law and Gun Smith. He at one time edited a paper at Yuma, and it is said that

BERRY, WILLIAM JUANES

-4-

when, owing to the slow and uncertain methods of freighting, he ran out of paper he would publish his paper on any kind of wrapping paper he could get.

Unhappy domestic affairs and a love for the cup, which finally landed him on the charity of the public, wrecked a life that might have been very useful. The heart of many an old Arizonian will be pained to know that the genial old Judge Berry is no more.

Died at Tucson, Pima County, A.T., July 9, 1891, aged 72.

Buried \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_.

His obituary in the Prescott Courier reads:

He was a pioneer of California, Oregon and Arizona. Came to this Territory in 1862 and settled at La Paz. He was in Prescott early in 1864 and in that year ran for Congress in order to take votes from Dr. Lieb and elect Chas. D. Poston. He got a few votes in this section.

Judge Berry was a man of massive frame and was pretty well informed. He went to New Mexico several years ago, but was never satisfied there, so friends brought him back to Prescott, from which place he went south where the Reaper laid hold of him.

People all over the Southwest, who knew the Judge, will feel that a fellow pioneer has emptied his canteen and passed on to the heavenly cases. His old palace on the east side of the Plaza, Prescott, where he raised a good crop of corn in 1864 and sighted many a gun will never more bear his weight. Like the great gun he formerly had for a sign, he has fallen to raise no more on earth,

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Great Register of Yuma County - 1876.

Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 3, pp. 88, 89; Vol. 4, p. 157; Vol. 6, pp. 102, 164.

McClintock, J. H. - Arizona, The Youngest State, Chicago, 1916, p. 509.

W. W. Elliott & Co. - History of Arizona Territory, S.F., 1884, p. 246.

Sloan, R. E. and Adams, W. - History of Arizona, Phoenix, 1930, pp. 299-300.

- Raymond, R.W. - Statistics of Mining West of the Rocky Mountains,  
8th Annual report, Washington, 1875, pp. 341, 353.
- U. S. General Land Office - Appointment records.
- The Arizona Miner, Prescott, September 7, 1867, 4:5 (Advertisement)
- The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, October 18, 1873, 2:1; July 10, 1875, 3:3  
December 30, 1876, 2:1 and July 18, 1891 2:1 (death notice).
- The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, May 18, June 8 and July 20, 1872; June 23,  
1885, p. 4:1 and July 10, 1891, 4:2, (obituary).
- The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, July 14, 1891 (death notice).
- The Arizona Enterprise, Florence, December 7, 1882, 3:1; July 18,  
1891 (death notice).
- The Journal-Miner, Prescott, July 15, 1891, 3:1 (death notice)
- The Arizona Star, Tucson, July 11, 1891, (obituary) .
- The Arizona Gazette, Phoenix, July 14, 1891, 2:2 (reprint of obituary  
in the Tucson Star).
- The Prescott Courier, October 28, 1882, 2:1; November 3, 1883, 4:1;  
June 9, 1886, 2:2; May 10, 4:1 and October 26, 1886, 3:8;  
July 21, 1890, 4:1; July 10, 1891, 2:1, July 17, 1891, 2:3  
(obituary).