

BOWERS, HERBERT

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Born at Greenfield, Hillsboro County, New Hampshire, July 21, 1822.

Son of _____ and _____; never married.

Left New Hampshire when he learned that gold had been discovered in California, crossing the plains with an ox team and covered wagon; came to northern Arizona from California in 1863; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, age 41, occupation - Miner, resident in Arizona 6 months, property valued at \$225; the Journal of the Pioneer and Walker Mining Districts shows that on December 21, 1864, he purchased for \$500, from Jerome Calkins, 112 feet on the Accidental Lode, 100 feet on the South extension of that lode and 300 feet on the Union Lode; his brother Nathan B. joined him at Prescott in 1864 where they formed a partnership to conduct the sutlers store at Fort Whipple and to engage in farming; member of Azatlan Lodge No. 177, F. & A. M., organized at Prescott in 1865; the following items mentioning him were printed in the Prescott Arizona Miner:

October 26, 1864 - - Messrs. Bowers, sutlers at Fort Whipple, have removed into their new store-- the old commissary building--and offer a large assortment of goods at fair prices.

September 20, 1867 - - Mr. Herbert Bowers, of Bowers Bros., sent us a sample of corn raised on his Agua Fria, ranch this season that would astonish an Illinoisan. The sample sent was four ears, which grew up and arrived at maturity in company with ten other ears upon one stalk, which said stalk sprang into existence out of the womb of one grain of corn. One of the ears presented to us measured fourteen inches in length and six in the circumference. Oh no, Arizona can't produce, not she.

November 28, 1868 - - From D. J. Marr, who came up from Bowers Agua Fria Ranch, we learned that

"Uncle " Herbert Bowers, one of the owners of the ranch, had left the store at Fort Whipple in charge of his brother Nathan, and was husking corn with the boys.

July 24, 1869 - - We are glad to be able to state that Herbert Bowers of this place, has purchased in San Francisco, and shipped for Prescott, a set of large burr stones, bolts, seives, etc., for his mill on the Agua Fria, about 18 miles from Prescott. These things are now on the way here, and we earnestly hope they will get through safely. A miller arrived here a short time ago, from San Francisco, and has gone to work on the mill building, putting it in order and getting things ready for the new "machinery." But for the monster fool who, last winter set fire to, burned and destroyed their mill on Granite Creek, near town, an excellent flouring mill would, ere this, have been in operation there. We need a good flouring mill very bad, and the chances for having one quite soon are favorable. ✓

November 20, 1869 - - E. J. Cook and Herbert Bowers arrived home early this week from San Francisco, California. Both gentlemen have goods on the way for their establishment here.

December 25, 1869 - - Dissolution of co-partnership. The co-partnership heretofore existing between Herbert Bowers and Nathan B. Bowers, in the mercantile business at Fort Whipple, under the firm name of Bowers & Bro., is this day dissolved by mutual consent. Herbert Bowers will alone collect and receipt for all debts due said late firm, and will pay all outstanding debts.

Herbert Bowers--Nathan B. Bowers

January 1, 1870 - - Herbert Bowers, Post Trader, Fort Whipple, A.T., has recently replenished his stock of groceries, provisions, can fruits, clothing, boots, shoes, stationary, fancy goods, tobacco, cigars, etc., and is selling very cheap. ✓

✓ January 15, 1870 - - Bowers & Bro's. Agua Fria Flouring. ✓ Flour for sale at Adobe Store, Prescott, \$20 per cwt., greenbacks.

March 26, 1870 - - Mining Summary - Walker District ----- Herbert Bowers and Company, have a gang of men running a tunnel toward the Accidental lode, which will strike the lode several hundred feet below the surface.

August 6, 1870 - - Herbert Bowers is known to most citizens of the Territory. He first saw the light of day in the old Granite State; started for California in 1849, arrived in Arizona in 1863, and with his brother Nathan, has, since that time, been engaged in business here. He has, probably done as much as any other citizen of the Territory for the Territory, and we hope that his efforts to develop the country will be crowned with success and meet with merited reward.

November 26, 1870 - - C. C. Egan and Herbert Bowers have returned home from a trip to Camp Verde and surrounding country. Lieutenant Wm. McK. Owen, the great roadbuilder, came up with them, having completed work upon the Military road from Prescott to New Mexico .

June 10, 1871 - - Our rascally reds have started the summer campaign in dead earnest, and, thanks to General Stoneman's blind policy, there is not a cavalry soldier at Fort Whipple to pursue them. No, not one, all in this section being at distant points, far from the important settlements surrounding Prescott.

Saturday last, a large party of Indians stole four horses and mules from some poor ranchmen on the Upper Verde; after accomplishing which they set out for Bowers' Agua Frio ranch, about 16 miles east of Prescott, and on Monday afternoon, just as the herders had got through watering the stock, in the creek, a short distance below the house, a large body of savages fired on the two herders, killed one of them, named Gantt, we believe; shot the other herder's mule from under him, and with wild whoops started mules, cattle and horses toward the East.

Word was immediately brought to Whipple and Prescott. Col. Brown, commanding at Whipple, immediately sent Sergeant Kelley and three men with an express to apprise the commander of Camp Verde. Sergeant Kelley soon made Ash Creek station, and four fresh men and animals then started, by which means the news was got to Gen. Grover in seven hours from Whipple. That officer sent Lieutenant Morton and some cavalymen to head off the Indians.

Meantime, a large party of citizens started from this place and joined by others at the Agua Frio.

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Up to this writing, Friday forenoon, nothing has been heard from citizens or soldiers. The entire number of animals stolen exceed 160 and were mostly owned by Herbert and N. B. Bowers, upon whom the loss will fall heavily. Then, the poor man who lost his life; will not some wife, father, mother, brothers, sisters, feel and weep o'er his untimely end?

The country around Prescott has, for several weeks past, been filled with Indians, who have amused themselves by firing the grass and trees, and who, unless they are driven out, will soon enact some bloody tragedy. Here is the place for the cavalry, and we most sincerely hope General Crook will come here soon and do something towards chastising the Indians and exercising the fat horses at Camp Verde and Hualpai.

June 24, 1871 - - The undersigned hereby wish to return their sincere thanks to Lieutenant Chas. Morton, 3d US Cavalry, the men of his command, Capt. John Townsend, and the gallant band of citizens who accompanied him, for their untiring zeal in pursuing and inflicting severe punishment on the band of Indians who murdered John Gantt and drove the stock from the Agua Fria ranch, on the 5th inst., besides avenging many similar outrages doubtless perpetrated by the same band. To your resolution and perseverance the citizens of Arizona owe the conversion of fifty-four Apaches. May you always be equally successful in all similar expeditions.

H. Bowers -- N. Bowers

April 20, 1872 - - Herbert Bowers has recently built a good, frame house and is now preparing to erect a new store house.

August 10, 1872 - - By invitation of Herbert Bowers, we jumped into his buggy Friday afternoon last and, after a three hours ride, alighted at his Agua Fria ranch, distant from Prescott, by trail, some fourteen miles; but, by the way we went, about 21 or 22 miles. The grass in Lonesome Valley and Agua Fria Valley was short in many places which had been skipped by the rains.

The Messrs. Bowers have, (or had, for the Indians may have them now), quite a herd of horses and cattle,

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all of which were in splendid condition, notwithstanding the shortness of the grass and the fact that they had to be put into a corral every night to keep them from falling into the clutches of the Apaches, who have stolen thousands of dollars worth of stock from the place.

In November, 1872, he was elected to be a member of the Board of Supervisors of Yavapai County; in announcing his death, the Arizona Miner stated:

Mr. Bowers was one of the early settlers in California, where he was engaged in mining and other business, being for a long time in Nevada City engaged in a banking business.

He came to Arizona about ten years ago, and after placer mining on Hassayampa and Lynx Creeks, obtained the appointment of Sutler at Fort Whipple, which position he held at the time of his death.

Mr. Bowers was one of the most respected members of the community. A pioneer of northern Arizona he was well known throughout the Territory, and the news of his death will occasion profound regret among his numerous friends throughout this Territory and California.

Died at San Francisco, California, December 21, 1873; aged 51, buried, _____ Cemetery, _____.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Farish, T.E. - History Of Arizona, Vol. 6, p.229; vol. 8, pp.149,171.
 Journals of the Pioneer and Walker Mining Districts, pp. 134,138.
 Barney, J. M. - Political Activities of the territorial Governors, Manuscript, p. 11.
The Arizona Miner, Prescott, October 26, 1864, 3:1; October 9, 1866, 1:2; September 20, 1867, 3:2; November 28, 1868, 3:1; January 9, 2:2; July 24, 3:2, November 20, 3:1 and December 25, 1869, 3:4; January 1, 3:3, January 15, 3:4, March 26, 2:1, August 6, 2:2, November 26, 3:2, June 10, 3:3, and June 24, 1871, 3:2; January 6, 3:6, April 20, 3:1, July 20, 3:1, August 10, 3:1, and November 23, 1872, 2:4; December 26, 1873, 4:2 (obituary).
The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, October 5, 1872, 1:4; December 13, 1873, 2:3.
The Evening Bulletin, San Francisco, Calif., December 22, 1873 (death notice).