

BRICHTA, AUGUSTUS C.

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BRICHTA, AUGUSTUS C., born in New York City, N.Y. , September 2, 1821; son of Francis and Amelia (Rudolphus) Brichta, both born in Germany; married Jesus Maria Franco, a native of Santa Cruz, Sonora, Mexico, at Tucson, A.T., March 24, 1872, and adopted her three sons who took his name, Bernabe C. (1860-1917), Manuel F. and Peter F.

Went with his parents to Havana, Cuba, where he attended the Jesuit College; the family moved to New Orleans and he completed his education at Saint Louis University, in Missouri, after which he joined his father in business in Nacogdoches County, Texas; enrolled, age 24, at Corpus Christi, May 17 and mustered in at Point Isabel, Texas, June 24, 1846, to serve 6 months during the Mexican War as Private, Captain Otis M. Wheeler's Company A, 2d Texas Mounted Volunteers; participated in the battle of Mont erey, September 21-24, 1846; honorably discharged with the Company at Monterey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, October 2, 1846.

Went to California in 1849 and engaged in mining on the American Feather and Yuba Rivers; he and his partner, Byron L. Tripp, left Aurora, California, late in 1863 and traveled via San Bernardino to the Weaver Diggings and thence to Walnut Grove on the Hassayampa River ; a few weeks later they went on to Lynx Creek and he gave the foil owing description of their arrival in an address to the Society of Arizona Pioneers at Tucson in 1888:

In riding up the creek I was astonished to see so many huts and camps and in front of each were hanging plenty of fat deer and occasionally a turkey. We met plenty of Apache

Indians going up and down the creek who were very friendly begging tobacco. We arrived at the Miller boys' cabin late and cooked supper. There I became acquainted with Col. McKinney (James B. McKinnie) and the Miller Bros., W. F. Scott, and others who flocked around our camp for news of the other world as they called it. I had some late California papers I gave them, which they were glad to see.

We were received with great kindness and the quantity of nice fresh fat venison was presented to us. We had considerable chile Colorado and onions which we presented to them as they had not had any for some time. The next day we went up the creek and camped and, as all the ground was claimed by the Walker party, one Gen. Colton (George Coulter), whose acquaintance I made, presented my partner and I with part of a claim he had, and we went to work.

The Journal of the Pioneer and Walker Mining Districts records that at a meeting of the Citizens of Lynx Creek on March 14, 1864 he, with Gen. George Coulter and John T. Alsap, were appointed as a committee to draft resolutions relative to the danger from hostile Indians which were adopted and sent to Governor Goodwin urging that immediate measures be taken to keep open communication with sources of supply of provisions and clothing and that a small body of soldiers be stationed in the immediate vicinity to add to the safety of the miners and others at work on the Creek; in his talk at Tucson he made mention of his participation in the Second Woolsey Expedition against the Apaches, March 29 to April 17, 1864:

In a short time after our arrival on the creek the Indians all disappeared and some of our horses (we lost two). I told the boys to look out that the Indians meant mischief. One

Col. King S. Wolsey who was much liked by all who knew him, for his bravery, and gentlemanly manners, who had a ranch on the Agua Fria, and who supplied us with beef, came up to the creek and reported that the Apaches were on the war path. The next day a meeting was held to consider the Indian question.

The result of the meeting was that 100 men, equipped to the best of their ability, were to meet at King S. Wolsey's Agua Fria Ranch at a certain day. We then organized with King S. Wolsey, commander-in-charge of the party, and we divided into four squads of 25 each, and each squad elected their own Captain. Your humble servant had considerable knowledge with the ways of the Comanches and Lapans in Texas in an early day, and so was elected as Captain of one of the squads.

About 30 Apaches were killed by members of the Expedition and he told how some of them were shot;

The Col. detailed 10 of our best shots to lay in ambush close up to the camp we left, as the Indians were in the habit of coming to our abandoned camps to pick up what was thrown away. The main party marched on and ascending a mesa land, we halted to see the effect our 10 men would have. Shortly, we seen some 6 or 8 Indians creep into camp and our men fired upon them. I do not think there was but one which escaped.

Listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d District, single, occupation - Miner, resident in Arizona 3 months, property valued at \$50; stated that he acted as Enrolling Clerk at the session of the 1st. Territorial Legislature at Prescott, September 26 to November 10, 1864; there is a record that on October 22, 1864, he joined with J. P. Osborn in locating 400 feet on the Henry Clay gold and silver lode in the Walker District; served as Assistant

Clerk to the lower house of the 4th Territorial Legislature at Prescott, September 5 to October 7, 1867, and was mentioned in the Arizona Miner of October 4 as "a writist of great vehemence and a tip top man".

Moved to Tucson where he taught the first English speaking school for 6 months, 1868-69, with an enrollment of 55, all boys, and was conducted in an adobe building with a dirt floor and roof; the Tucson Arizonian of January 31, 1869 reported that:

Gus Brichta has rented Wheat's Saloon, on Main Street, where he will be pleased to accommodate his friends and the public generally, with the best of liquors and cigars.

Listed, U. S. Census, July, 1870, at Tucson, occupation - Hotel Clerk, property valued at \$100; was County Recorder of Pima County, 1873-74, and the Tucson Arizona Citizen of April 12, 1873, stated:

Brichta, Augustus C. is running the offices of recorder and clerk of the board of supervisors in good shape. He is also prompt in his place of business and bids fair to become a very popular officer.

Served as Enrolling Clerk for the 7th and 8th Territorial Councils at Tucson, 1873 and 1875; listed in Barter's Tucson City Directory, 1881, as Saloon Keeper at 610 Pennington Street; he was then interested with G. F. Meek in the Continucion silver-lead mine in the Sierritas District; was an original member of the Society of Arizona Pioneers at Tucson, January 31, 1884; member National Association of the Veterans of the Mexican War; an obituary in the Tucson Arizona Star stated that:

He was the first Justice of the Peace in Nogales and the first public school teacher in Tucson. When S. R. DeLong was mayor Mr. Brighta was assistant clerk in the commissary department, and was County Recorder for one term about 1878.

In later years he devoted his attention to mining enterprises and owned several claims in the Tucson mountains at the time of his death. He also possessed considerable real estate in the city.

Died at Tucson, A.T., December 21, 1910, aged 89, buried, Holy Hope Cemetery.

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