

BRYAN, JONATHAN M.

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BRYAN, JONATHAN M _____

Born at _____ ~~Maryland~~ Missouri, _____, 1840 (about 1840).

Son of _____ and _____.

Married (1) Vina Doane, daughter of Isaac and Sophia (Bennett) Doan,
from whom he was divorced on _____, 18____ (about 1877).

Married (2) _____ at _____ on _____
_____, 1878.

Listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d District (Yavapai County), age, 24, born in Maryland, occupation - Miner, resident in Arizona 10 months; U.S. Census, June 1870, at Ehrenberg, Yuma County, age 30, born in Missouri, occupation - Freight Contractor, property valued at \$20,000; brought the first grain header into the Salt River Valley, 1870; one of the organizers of the Salt River Farming Ditch Company, January 1, 1871; contracted that same year to haul military supplies from Ehrenberg to Fort Whipple, Camp Verde and Fort McDowell, his name appears twice in the Prescott Arizona Miner in 1877:

October 12 - - J. M. Bryan (Crete), one of the successful freighters and an old resident of Arizona, having come to the Territory as early as 1864, arrived from Greenwood. Mr. Bryan is at present shipping barley into the Sandy country from Phoenix.

November 2 - - We understand that J. M. Bryan claims a section of the road down the Big Sandy, which leads to the McCracken and Greenwood country, and is exacting a heavy toll from all who travel that public thoroughfare. What his claim is or how he derived it, we have not been able to learn.

The Prescott Arizona Enterprise also mentioned him:

April 13, 1878 - - Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Bryan arrived from Ehrenberg. "Crete" and his bride are very welcome visitors.

June 19, 1878 - - Mr. J. M. Bryan, the freighter, has a notice in this paper that he is prepared to receive and forward goods, machinery, etc., from his warehouse in Ehrenberg to any point in the Territory.

Died at Prescott, Yavapai County, A. T., August 29, 1883; buried, Citizens Cemetery at Prescott; in reporting his death the Phoenix Herald stated:

Mr. Bryan was one of the largest land owners in the County, a most successful farmer, an upright and most esteemed citizen, in whose death every one recognizes the loss of a valuable friend to all that is just, honest and enterprising in our community.

Mr. Bryan was an old resident of the Territory and for several years was engaged in the freighting business between the Vulture mine and Wickenburg and Prescott. He was aged something over 43 years and leaves a wife and, we believe, one child to mourn his sad demise.

Three days later the Herald reprinted the following from the Prescott Arizona Miner:

In all the breadth and length of Arizona there did not live a more upright enterprising and courteous gentleman than J. M. Bryan. His friends were legion, who will feel sad over his sudden and unexpected demise; for less than 8 days ago he came to Prescott with Mrs. Bryan in a carriage for the purpose of resting and to recruit an overworked system and brain. Five years ago Mr. Bryan married a very excellent lady, who is left to mourn his loss. He has also in the Salt River Valley two brothers and in California his father still resides.

The following obituary was written by John H. Marion, editor of the Prescott Courier:

He was one of the first to come to this part of Arizona and identify himself with its civilizing element. We met him on the trail between Prescott and Lynx Creek in 1864, when both of us were searching for horses which the Indians had stolen from us.

We have heard of him occasionally from that time until his recent arrival here, and it is to his credit that he was always respected for his honesty, industry and manly character.

On November 4, 1883, the Phoenix Gazette stated:

The estate of the late J. M. Bryan will foot up about \$60,000. The indebtedness is said to amount to \$36,000. It is believed that Mr. Kales, administrator, will be able to close it up without any great sacrifice. Should immigration continue to pour in, there is little doubt but there will be a demand for all the land at fair prices.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Parish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 4, pp. 68-69; Vol. 6, pp. 90, 137, 216; Vol. 8, pp. 298, 299.
Barney, J. M. - Early Annals of the Wickenburg County, Manuscript, 1942.
Probate Court of Maricopa County - Docket No. 70.
The Phoenix Herald, August 29 and 31, 1883. (obituary).
The Arizona Miner, Prescott, October 18 and November 2, 1877, 4:2.
The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, April 13, 3:1 and June 19, 1878, 2:1.
The Prescott Courier, September 1, 1883, 3:1 (obituary).