

CARLEY, ROBERT BARTHOLEMEN

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CARLEY, ROBERT BARTHOLEMEN, born at Brockville, Leeds County, Ontario, Canada, July 14, 1825; son of _____ and _____ (was raised by his uncle, a merchant in Brockville); married a native of New Mexico at Albuquerque about 1854; children, Miguel (1856-1915) and Antonio, a youngerson, who was killed by Apaches in New Mexico.

Left home at age 17 and went to New York City where he was employed by a steamship company; landed in New Orleans that year and by 1845 had worked his way to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he became a government teamster and went with the Army to Mexico during the war, 1846-47; returned to Fort Leavenworth and traveled from there to New Mexico; in Santa Fe he accepted a clerkship in the Quartermaster's Department and later became an Assistant Quartermaster.

About 1852 he was employed to instruct the Apaches in farming but lost everything he owned in an Indian raid in 1856 so again became a Quartermaster's Clerk; he acquired another freighting outfit and hauled goods from the Missouri River to Santa Fe and later to Army posts in New Mexico and to Prescott and Tucson in Arizona.

Listed U. S. Census, July 1870, at Adamsville on the Gila River, occupation, Teamster; shortly afterwards he became one of the first settlers on the south side of Salt River and helped to take out the Tempe Canal; the Tucson Arizona Citizen of November 21, 1874, reported that:

The "Independents" elected their full ticket by a nice majority, including Robert Carley, for supervisor of Maricopa County at the election held on Nov. 3, 1874.

He served as Supervisor for four years, 1875-78, but continued to do freighting as well as farming as is shown by the following item in

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the Prescott Arizona Miner of February 12, 1875:

Robert Carley came in on Sunday with part of a load of flour for Mr. Cornell from Hellingfs Mills on Salt River. Bob has been on the way between here and Bowers' ranch in Skull Valley nearly two weeks, on account of the bad condition of the road, and finally divided his cargo and came in with half of it. The balance was fortunately sold in Skull Valley to go to Sandy, so that Bob points his twelve mules in the direction of Phoenix and cracks his whip with empty wagons for home.

He originally claimed American citizenship by reason of Army service but was regularly naturalized in the U.S. District Court in Phoenix, December 16, 1876; served as Road Overseer, District 3 (Tempe) 1887; the great flood of 1891 swept away the buildings on his farm; he sold the place in 1893 and deposited the money in the Bank of Tempe which failed and left him penniless; served as Justice of the Peace of Tempe precinct, 1874-75, and was again elected to that office in 1896, serving until his death.

Died at Tempe, Maricopa County, Arizona, May 12, 1900, aged 74; buried in the Double Buttes Cemetery (W.W. Jones plot) Tempe, Arizona.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Phoenix, 1918, Vol. 7, p. 109.
 The Quartermaster General's Office - Archives and Claims.
 Great Register of Maricopa County - 1876 - 1886.
 W.P.A. - Inventory of Maricopa County Archives, 1940, pp. 356, 364, 378.
 The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, September 26, 2:2 and November 21, 1874, 2:3
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, February 12, 1875, 3:2
 The Tempe News, May 18, 1900 (obituary).
 The Daily Enterprise, Phoenix, May 14, 1900 (death notice).
 The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, May 14, 1900, 6:2-3 (obituary).