

CHENEY, JOHN

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Born at Stanley, Missouri, June 1, 1828.

Son of _____ and _____.

Said to have arrived in Tucson, 1862; the following is taken from an obituary printed in the Prescott Journal-Miner:

He was a cousin of the late Bob Groom, and accompanied the latter to Prescott in 1863, remaining for several years but later drifting with the tide of mining excitements as they occurred at different camps throughout the country.

Mr. Cheney assisted Mr. Groom in laying out the town of Prescott early in 1864, which event he often commented upon, and recalled the method of making the surveys. The instruments used were primitive, moulded from utilities on hand, the compass being made of an old frying pan, and the delineations of the townsite being gauged from the north star in the heavens.

Under this crude system of civil engineering the various blocks of the city were marked with metes and bounds running due east and west, and so accurate was the work done that not over a foot in a block of 600 feet in length was found to be any more inaccurate, when up-to-date instruments were available. The defective lines, however, are maintained to this day, and while some of the blocks may be somewhat topsy at one end and turvy at the other, so far as the points of the compass are to be considered, the illusion is hardly perceptible to the eye.

Mr. Cheney was a splendid citizen, genial in manners and generous to all. He was a builder of the country, but in his declining years, stepped aside for younger men to handle the helm.

Died at the Pioneers Home, Prescott, Arizona, January 4, 1913, aged 84, buried Pioneers Cemetery, Prescott.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Journal Miner, Prescott, January 5, 1913, 3:2 (obituary).
The Prescott Courier, January 11, 1913, 8:2 (obituary).