

# CONTRERAS, ANTONIO

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CONTRERAS, ANTONIO, born at Magdalena, District of Altar, Sonora, Mexico, 1830; son of Francisco and Dolores (Lorona) Contreras; married, Carmen Montano at San Gabriel Mission, California, on \_\_\_\_\_, 1856.

Children, Antonio Jr., Francisco, Rosalia, Regina, Carmen, Conception (Mrs. J. M. Alvarado) and Dolores (Mrs. Manuel Molina).

Went from Sonora to seek gold in Northern California, 1849; came from Anador County, California, to Arizona, 1859; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, at La Laguna, A.T., age 34, born in Sonora, resident in Arizona 4 years; occupation, Merchant; U.S. Census, August, 1870, at Arizona City, Yuma County, A. T., age 38, occupation, Stock Trader, property valued at \$5,500; naturalized as an American citizen in the District Court, Yuma, A.T., March 24, 1871; ten mules valued at \$2,000 were stolen from him and his partner, Andrew Shene, on February 20, 1868, near Tucson, A.T., by San Carlos Apache Indians; his obituary in the Yuma

## Sentinel reads:

Wrier to the building of the Southern Pacific railroad he done a large freighting business between here and Tucson and Los Angeles. He had many narrow escapes - from death by the Indians in early times. On one occasion when returning from Tucson with his freight train, his driver while watching the mules staked out to feed was killed by the redskins and the mules driven off. Like a great many of others, he lost considerable from the depredations of the Indians.

"He is spoken of by our pioneer citizens as the soul of honor and integrity, and no other pioneer of this village who has went before him to that bourne from which no traveler returneth, is spoken of or held in higher esteem, than Antonio Contreras."

Died at Yuma, Yuma County, A.T., November 10, 1895, aged 65; buried, old Catholic Cemetery, Yuma, Arizona.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Rebate Court of Yuma County - Docket No. 170.

U.S. Court of Claims - Indian Depredation Docket No. 6901.

Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, November 16, 1895, p. 3, Col. 2, (obituary).