

CULLING, CHARLES C.

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CULLING, CHARLES C., born in London, England, about 1825; married Maria Valensuela, age 14, daughter of Martial and Martena Valensuela, at Wickenburg, Yavapai County, A.T., on December 17, 1871, by both the Justice of the Peace and a Priest; children, Daniel L., Charles C. and Albert; in 1882 Mrs. Culling married Joseph S. Drew.

Came to Arizona City in 1864 and went via steamboat to La Paz; was among the first to be employed by Henry Wickenburg at the Vulture Mine that year; had an idea that a station in the desert on the road between Wickenburg and La Paz would be profitable so dug a deep well in the McKullen valley but found no water; in 1866 he sank another shaft near the Centennial Wash about five miles west of his first attempt and at 240 feet struck water-bearing gravel; went 25 feet into the gravel developing a plentiful supply which he sold at 25 cents per animal watered or at 50 cents a barrel; the water was drawn from the well by a mule with a rope and a large barrel.

The steamboat landing was moved from La Paz to Ehrenburg and the watering places from there eastward were Tyson Wells 23 miles, Desert Well 28 miles, Mungia Well 17 miles and Culling's well 15 miles, a total distance of 82 miles; his advantage was that at his station the road forked, the right hand branch going 45 miles eastward to Wickenburg and the other more northerly via Camp Date Creek, 45 miles, and thence to Prescott, a total of 105 miles; In addition to the daily stage each way many freight teams topped there so that the business was profitable, the principal loss that he suffered being live stock stolen by raiding Apaches.

From time to time he purchased horses and cattle which were turned loose on the range but came to the well for water; the first raid was in 1872 when 132 head of stock were taken; he followed the Apaches but could not catch up with them; in September of that year his wife saw the Indians drive off 35 milk cows

from within a half mile of the Stage Station; in 1873 the Apaches stole 18 of his work horses and the following year 125 head of stock cattle; they again raided the milk herd in 1875 and got away with 20 cows and a bull; while he was camped at Black Tanks, about 20 miles northwest of his home on the road to Prescott, the Apaches stole 3 work horses and 13 of his mules; at another time they burned 200 tons of native hay which he had cut and stacked in the low land about two miles from his well and partly destroyed a corral; according to the testimony given by his widow in 1895 in support of her Indian depredation claim, the total estimated value of the property that he lost was \$27,815.

Listed, U.S. Census, July 2, 1870, at La Paz, age 45, occupation - Station Keeper, property valued at \$1,000; his name also appears in the census taken on August 20 that year at Yulture City; in "Vanished Arizona" Mrs. Martha Summerhayes, the wife of an Army Officer, gives the following account of a stop for the night at his station in 1875;

The third day (from Fort Whipple) brought us to Cullen's ranch, at the edge of the desert. Mrs. Cullen was a Mexican woman and had a little boy named Daniel; she cooked us a delicious supper of stewed chicken, and fried eggs, and good bread, and then she put our boy to bed in Daniel's crib; I felt so grateful to her; and with the return of physical comfort, I began to think that life, after all might be worth living.

Died at Culling's Well, Yuma County, A.T., August 4, 1878, and buried there; an obituary in the Prescott Arizona Enterprise stated;

Mr. Culling was long and favorably known to travelers and residents in this territory. He was a good, whole souled, jovial man, and his hearty welcome and pleasant countenance will be missed by his old friends along the route.

The Prescott Arizona Miner gives this description of him;

Mr. Culling was one of Arizona's oldest and best citizens. He settled where he died, about 12 years ago, and has since continued to reside at Culling's Station, where the weary were welcomed and found rest, the hungry (whether accompanied by plenty or the needful or otherwise) food. There is not a person who ever knew Charley Culling but what will mourn his loss. He was an Englishman by birth, and at the time of his death, about 54 years of age.