

DOTEN, JAMES

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Born at _____ Massachusetts, _____ 18__ (about 1815).

Son of _____ and _____.

Married, Rosa _____ at _____ on _____, 18__.

who was born in Sonora about 1835 and died at Yuma, on May 6, 1881; children, Adele, born 1858, Mary, born 1860, James S., born 1864, John, born 1866, George O., born 1869.

Listed, U. S. Census, 1860, at Fort Yuma, California, age 42, born in Massachusetts, occupation - Coachmaker, property valued at \$1,000; on March 30, 1878, the Yuma Arizona Sentinel printed a communication signed "W" and entitled "An Arizona Adventure, Twenty-four Years Ago" which described the organization in San Francisco, California, in 1854, of a party of 20 men under the leadership of Edward E. Dunbar to engage in the development of mines in the Gadsden Purchase; they were all members of the Arizona Mining and Trading Company of which Dunbar was President and James Porter, of the San Francisco Examiner, was Secretary; the Company was organized to prospect for six months and, if valuable mining property was found, to then Incorporate and issue stock; of the surviving members of the party the writer stated:

Of the twenty all young men that came down into this wilderness, there are but eight left; the rest have disappeared from among men. The eight I will name here: PETE BRADY, now Sheriff of Pinal county; B. HILL DeARMIT, of Florence, Arizona; JAMES DOTEN, of Yuma; J. R. McELROY, a miner of Calaveras county, California, JAS. PORTER, of San Francisco; OLIVER C. HAYWARD, now farming in Canada; JOE YANCEY, a Panther in San Diego; and THE WRITER, who is a most accomplished vagabond, always on the go looking for something

better and never finding it.

But to come back to the story. After the company was organized, we purchased our outfit and arms and left San Francisco, early in October, 1854, on the old steamer Senator. At Los Angeles we completed our outfit of animals, and started for the unknown and mysterious land of Arizona, all with high hopes of returning with untold wealth after a pleasure trip of many and strange adventures. Not one of us has had our hopes realized, and twenty-four years have elapsed. After a pleasant trip across the Desert, we crossed the Colorado and camped on the Gila, a little way above where Yuma now stands.

From there they went to Sonoyta, Sonora, where five of them left to take possession of the Ajo Mine in what is now western Pima County; the others, including Doten, went on to look over the famous Planchas de Plata in northern Sonora and to prospect in southern Arizona; what he did during the next five years is not known but there is a record of the employment of James Doten as Carpenter and Interpreter at Fort Yuma at \$125 per month from November 1, 1861 to January 1, 1864 when his pay was raised to \$150 a month; his employment was continuous but his title was changed to Wheelwright on May 1, 1865 and he served in that capacity at Fort Yuma at an average salary of \$175 per month until finally discharged on June 29, 1870.

He probably lived in Arizona City (Yuma) while working at Fort Yuma because he is listed there in the 1870 Census as a Carriage-maker, age 58, property valued at \$4,000; that he soon afterwards went into business for himself is indicated by a statement by Padre Pablo Figueroa that in Yuma, "James Doten kept

a wagon factory, a carpenter shop and blacksmith shop and a big yard for the repairing of all kinds of vehicles"; this is confirmed by an item in the Arizona Sentinel of April 6, 1878, which stated:

A New blacksmithing business has been started here by Dan Donaldson & Co. They have taken the shop so many years occupied by Uncle Jimmy Doten and are fitting it up for doing every kind of work required by freighters, travellers and farmers.

Died at Yuma, A. T., February 23, 1884.

Buried _____ Cemetery.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, March 3, 1:2-4, April 6, 3:3, September 28, 1878, 2:1; May 14, 1881, 3:1; March 1, 1884, 3:3 (death notice).

The Quartermaster General's Office - Old files.

Padre Figueroa's Manuscript - A.P.H.S., Tucson, p. 62.

The Great Register of Yuma County, 1876.