

# DUNN, AMASA G.

010

DUNN, AMASA G \_\_\_\_\_

Born at \_\_\_\_\_ New York, \_\_\_\_\_, 18 \_\_\_\_ (about 1818),

Son of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Married (1) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_;

daughter, *Mary E.*, born in California, 1854, who married John Dolan at Prescott, A.T., July 17, 1870; married (2) Virginia Vildosola at Prescott, September 15, 1865, who was born In Sonora about 1843; the Probate Court record refers to a son - a child but does not give his name.

Listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d District (Yavapai County), age 45, born in New York, single, resident in Arizona 3 months, occupation - Carpenter, property valued at \$300; appointed Deputy U.S. Marshal for the 3d Judicial District October 5, 1864; on June 12, 1868, he advertised a few No. 1 cows for sale; during July, August and September, as Assistant Census Marshal he took the U.S. Census of 1870 in Yavapai County and listed himself as age 52, born in New York, occupation - Dairyman, property valued at \$8,000; the Prescott Arizona Miner printed the following accounts of the loss of livestock stolen that year from his pasture between Fort Whipple and Prescott:

June 11, 1870 - - The devilish Indians opened the summer campaign last week, in a vigorous way. Friday afternoon last, after our paper had gone to press, they made a descent upon a herd of fifty-seven cattle, belonging to A. G. Dunn, of this place, wounded the herder, a Mr. Taylor, in the hand, and started the cattle on a brisk run for the mountains. This outrage was committed in open day, at a place about midway between Fort Whipple and Prescott, and not over half a mile from either place.

Upon being wounded, the herder ran to Mr. Dunn's house and gave the alarm. Word was immediately sent to Fort Whipple, and a force of cavalry, led by Lieutenant J. C.

Graham, was at once dispatched after the robbers. In the meantime, Messrs. Dunn, Griffin and others set out on the trail. By night, thirty-seven head of the cattle were recaptured and driven back to town. Next morning six more were found, five of which number were dead, having been slain by the savages. One, a heifer, which the Indians had wounded and partly skinned, was still alive when found by Messrs. Dunn and Griffin.

Lieutenant Graham and men kept on after the savages, never stopping until they had reached the Agua Fria ranch. The Lieutenant then sent some of his men back to Whipple for rations, which were immediately sent him. He then started towards Black Canyon, near which place he succeeded in killing two Indians, and destroying a rancharia, containing a large quantity of mescal. He is still out, and it is earnestly hoped that he may strike some more of the savages. The Indians got away with 12 head of the cattle, killed six and left Mr. Dunn with thirty-nine head. This is not the first time the red devils have robbed Dunn.

October 1, 1870 - - On Monday, A. G. Dunn turned his span of black horses loose to graze, and as they did not come up at night, he looked for them Tuesday morning, and found where the Indians had surrounded them about one-half mile northeast of his house. F.A. Cook and Mr. Dunn followed the trail up the gulch to the divide between town and Lynx Creek, over the same route by which so many of his cattle and horses have been spirited away during the past four years - when being satisfied that they were taken the night before he did not pursue the investigation further.

Killed by James A. Simpson at Prescott, A.T., November 8, 1870, aged 52; buried \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery; his estate, consisting principally of 47 head of dairy cattle, 2 horses and 10 hogs, was sold at auction because it was:

"perishable in such a way as being exposed every day to the chances of being stolen by Indians, also creating a large expense in the way of living men to attend them".

The following account of how he came to his death was printed in the Arizona Miner of November 12, 1870:

We would like to give a full history of the trouble which led to this killing, but cannot do so, for the reason that it first started on account of a woman. Simpson gave offense

DUNN, AMASA G \_\_\_\_\_

- 3 -

to Dunn, and it is said that Dunn and another man went to Simpson's place, on Willow Creek, about three miles from Prescott, some time ago, and opened fire upon Simpson, who then got away without a scratch. Dunn returned to town, and, we are told, made several threats to take Simpson's life, whenever Simpson came within range of his pistol.

Matters stood this way until election day, when Simpson came to town. Dunn was at the polls nearly all that day, working for McCormick, and as he had drunk considerable, his worst passions became aroused, and he told a leading McCormick man that he was going to kill Simpson. Simpson was apprised of this, and on being asked, by Governor Safford, why he was not at work, electioneering for McCormick, he gave as his reason for not doing so, the threat which Dunn had made, and his repugnance to getting into trouble. The above is common report, and likely to be true. The following is Simpson's story:

Some time after dark, on the evening in question, he had his horse saddled and was about to start from F. A. Cook's place, on Cortes street, when he saw a man loitering around C. Co Bean's stable, recognized the man, who was under the influence of liquor, and far from being a thief. Simpson, however, started up the hill towards C. C. Bean's house, to inform Mr. Cortes, who had charge of the place, that he had better fasten a door or window of the stable, which was open, but, just as he had arrived near the fence which surrounds the house, Dunn, who was returning to town, from his own house, came along and said, "Is that you, Simpson?" Simpson replied, "yes", when Dunn drew his six-shooter, and Simpson leveled his Sharp's rifle, which he had in his hands.

Shots were then rapidly exchanged, until Dunn fell dead, after having received four shots - three from the rifle and one from a six-shooter, which Simpson drew on account of the machinery of his gun refusing to work. Simpson further stated to us that Dunn was not more than fourteen feet from him when the firing commenced; that himself and Dunn kept firing and advancing, until they were within a few feet of each other. Simpson surrendered himself to Sheriff Taylor, and was placed in confinement. Dr. McCandless, who examined Dunn's body, says he found where four bullets had entered, two in the breast, one in the side, and one through his head.

DUNN, AMASA G \_\_\_\_\_

Deceased came to this Territory in the latter part of '63, or early in '64, we disremember which, and has ever been looked upon as a dangerous man, when in liquor. But he was industrious, and managed to accumulate some property. We believe he was a native of New York. He leaves a wife and daughter.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION .

Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol.8, p.132.  
Probate Court of Yavapai County - Docket No. 49.  
Yavapai County Marriage records, Book 1, pp. 2, 12.  
The Arizona Miner Prescott, September 21, 3:2, October 5 1864, 3:4, October 11, 1866, 1:2; October 24, 1868, 1:1; June 11, 3:2, October 29, 4:1, November 12, 1870, 3:2 (obituary).  
The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, November 26, 1870, 1:4 (death notice).

Amasa Dunn

Arizona Miner 1864  
September 21

A. G. Dunn  
Dealer in General Merchandise  
Prescott Arizona  
Goods Bought and Sold on Commission. Just Received--  
7,400 lbs. Pimo Flour (a Superior article) and for sale  
at the lowest market rates. p3 c2