

EHLE, JOSEPH

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EHLE, JOSEPH, born at Mohawk Village, Herkimer County, New York, March 16, 1814; married, Margaret Williams (1817-1905) in Iowa in 1841, a native of Ohio whose parents were Virginians; children, John Henry, Mary Jo (Mrs. John Ho Dixon) Olive (Mrs. Edward F. Bowers and afterwards Mrs. Hulbert B. Crouch), Emma Elizabeth (Mrs. William T. Silverthorn and afterwards Mrs. Irvin Sanders), Margaret V. (Mrs. _____ Foster), Sarah F. (Mrs. James M. Baker). The following account of his life is based upon an obituary in the Prescott Journal-Miner:

"At the age of ten years he drifted alone into Canada, and chose millwrighting as his future vocation. In 1834 he followed a party into Iowa, and in 1841 was married in that state. Leaving his wife with relatives he went to California in 1851, erecting a sawmill, and leaving later for Oregon, where he remained in a similar capacity for three years.

In 1859 he returned to Iowa, and the following year with his wife emigrated into Colorado, where they remained until March of 1864. At the head of a party the deceased started overland for Arizona over the historical Santa Fe trail and arrived at Prescott on July 13, 1864.

On leaving Colorado, Mr. Ehle was imbued with the idea of bringing in cows with which to establish a dairy business, driving one hundred head. By the time Prescott was reached, the herd had dwindled to only three, when he immediately abandoned that line. Several chickens, however, withstood the trip, and with these fowls he embarked in the poultry business, which gave him his first start in a financial career that proved successful. The eggs sold for \$2.50 a dozen, but no money could buy the fowls.

Mrs. Ehle brought along a yellow house cat, and this feline attracted very much attention, being the first of its race, along with the fowls, to reach this section. The Ehle party also enjoyed

the distinction of bringing in the first sewing machine, which was of the Grover & Baker make. Mr. Ehle also erected the first grist mill in Arizona, this occurring in 1865.

In the fall of 1864, Mr. Ehle, with his own hands, built the first commodious home in the city, a log residence of five rooms, which until a decade ago stood on the southwest corner of Goodwin and Marina Streets. In 1865 the deceased moved his family to Skull Valley, and established the first 'government road station. Retracing his steps he came to Prescott to reside in the following year, and here he remained continuously until his illness overtook him about three years ago.

He was reputed to be the oldest living Mason west of the Rocky Mountains in point of membership as well as age. It is stated by authoritative sources that he had been a Mason since 1838, joining a lodge in the state of Iowa seventy four years ago.

The Prescott Arizona-Miner reported that he presided at a meeting held on October 9, 1864, to organize the Spring Valley Mining District; he is named as the proprietor of the Montezuma Hotel, on Montezuma Street, Prescott, in an advertisement appearing in the Miner of October 24, 1868; the following was printed in that newspaper on May 4, 1872 :

A party of Indians came within a mile or two of Prescott and stole six head of cows, four of which belonged to V.A. Stephens, one to Wm. N. Kelly and one to Joseph Ehle. George Brewer and Mr. Ehle tracked the savage thieves and the stock into Granite mountain, in a gorge of which they very reluctantly abandoned the pursuit, fearing to risk their lives in said mountain which is a favorite Indian retreat and stronghold.

Listed, U. S. Census, July, 1870, at Prescott, A.T., age 55, occupation, Carpenter; property valued at \$4,500; U. S. Census,

1880, age 65, occupation, Stockraiser; member Aztlan Lodge No. 1, F. & A.M. in Prescott which he helped to organize in 1865; died at Los Angeles, California, November 27, 1912, aged 98; buried, Masonic Cemetery, Prescott, Arizona.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- McClintock, J. H. - Arizona, The Youngest State, p. 321
 Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 3, pp. 207-208, 210; Vol. 4, p. 250, 269.
 W.P.A. - Arizona, a state Guide, N.Y., 1940, p. 236.
 Probate Court of Yavapai County, Docket No. 1081.
 California Vital Statistics, 1912--Death Certificate 444, 420.
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, October 26, 1864, 3:4; October 24, 1868, 1:1; February 27, 2:3 and April 17, 1869, 3:2; May 4, 2:2, August 31, 2:2 and November 3, 1872, 1:2.
 The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, March 20, 3:3 and November 27, 1878.
 The Prescott Herald, August 12, 1908, 3:2.
 The Prescott Courier, September 18, 1883, 4:3; July 6, 1888, 4:3; February 11, 1901, 2:1; September 6, 3:3, November 6, 2:1, and December 28, 1905, 3:1; December 7, 1912, 3:2 (obituary).
 The Journal-Miner, Prescott, March 17, 1904, 8:2; October 13, 4:2 and November 7, 1907, 8:1; June 20, 1908, 4:3; November 28, 5:3-4 and December 1, 1912, 5:3 (obituary).
 The Los Angeles Times, November 27, 1912, 16:2 (death notice).

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Fish, Joseph - History of Arizona, Manuscript, p. 375.
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, October 9, 1869, - 3:1; August 24, 1877, 4:2; March 15, 1878, 3:3-4, and 2:4; February 28, 3:1, July 18, 3:2 and October 31, 1879, 3:2; January 16, 3:3, January 23, 3:2, February 27, 3:2, April 23, 3:1 and 4:1 and August 13, 1880, 3:2.
 The Prescott Courier, April 1, 1882, 3:2 and July 6, 1888, 4:3.
 The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, April 27, 3:1 and December 7, 1878, 3:1.