

FISH, EDWARD NYE

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FISH, EDWARD NYE, born at Barnstable, Massachusetts, August 12, 1827; son of Franklin and Bathsheba (Crocker) Fish; married (1) Barbara Jameson at San Francisco, California, in December, 1861, who died, April 11, 1872, and (2) Maria M. Wakefield at Tucson, March 12, 1874; children, Edward N. Jr., and Jennie (Mrs. Henry F. Bennett) by his first wife and Frank W., Clara C. (Mrs. Fred C. Roberts) and Florence M. (Mrs. John B. T. Campbell).

Attended the common schools and the academy at Barnstable; learned the trade of wheelwright and tinsmith at Fairhaven, Mass.; sailed from New Bedford, Mass. on the ship "Florida" via Cape Horn and arrived at San Francisco, January 2, 1850; went to Sacramento where he conducted a hardware store and tin shop for about a year; moved to the north fork of the American River and engaged in general merchandising and buying gold dust for Wells Fargo & Co.; returned to Sacramento in 1853 and embarked on a wholesale supply business and later had a branch house in San Francisco; was a member of the vigilance committee; came to Calabasas, Pima County, A.T., in 1865, and was a member of the firm of Garrison & Fish, post traders; was Postmaster at Calabasas from October 8, 1866 to August 31, 1868.

Located in Tucson in 1867 where he established a general merchandise store at the corner of Main and Congress Streets; in partnership with Joseph Collingwood started a branch store at Florence in 1868 where they financed new settlers to plant wheat and barley which they bought; extended credit to the Silver King Mining Company to an amount of over \$30,000 before they were paid; listed, U.S. Census, 1870, at Tucson, as Wholesale and retail merchant, property valued at \$148,000.

His freighting outfit consisted of four 12-mule and one 16-mule teams with which he hauled his own and government supplies and delivered flour and grain to Army Posts in Arizona under contract; in one year goods valued at

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over \$300,000 were transported; the Tucson Arizonian of April 18, 1869,

said;

The train of E.H. Fish & Co. arrived from Yuma on Monday last laden with a fresh supply of goods for that firm. This train made the round trip from Tucson to Yuma and returned again to Tucson in thirty days - the fastest time ever made by a train over this route.

Member, Board of Supervisors of Pima County for 8 years, 186__ to 187__, during which he was Chairman for 4 years; Treasurer of the Village of Tucson, 1873-77; on November 12, 1877, he was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian Church, the first Protestant Church established in Tucson; an adobe Church with a seating capacity of 250 was erected in 1879 at a cost of \$9,000; Member of the Commission to adjust financial differences between Pima and Cochise Counties, 1880-81; Member, of the Committee to celebrate the arrival of the Southern Pacific railroad to Tucson, March 10, 1880.

purchased the Eagle Flour mills from James Lee and W.F. Scott in 1874 and devoted a large share of his attention to that business until 1888; in 1880 he had a trading post at Sacaton to buy wheat from the Pima Indians; Barter's Tucson City Directory, 1881, contains the following description of the mills;

They contain three run of stone, with a capacity of over 7,000 lbs per day of 12 hours with two stones. The engine is 25-horse power. Grain from the vicinity of Tucson is here ground and sold all over Arizona.

Few business men of Tucson are more active than Mr. Fish. Neither the broiling sun nor the down-pouring rain interferes with whatever business he has to perform.

Was also interested in a saw mill in the Santa Rita Mountains and also in cattle ranches; did some mining in the Patagonia Mountains with D.A. Bennett in 1873; was one of the owners of the Old Boot Mine in 1881;

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life member of California Lodge No. 1, F. & A.M., San Francisco, California; charter member, Society of Arizona Pioneers, Tucson, January 31, 1884.

Died at Tucson, January 31, 1884, aged 87; buried Masonic Cemetery, Tucson.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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- Lockwood, F.C. - Pioneer Days in Arizona, 1932, p. 170.
- Lockwood and Page - Tucson, The Old Pueblo, 1931, pp. 46, 55, 78.
- Disturnell, W.C. - Arizona Business Directory and Gazetteer, 1881, pp. 57, 166, 190, 214.
- Barter, G.W. - Directory of the City of Tucson, 1881, pp. 15-19, 22, 44-45, 73.
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- The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, April 27, November 9 and 16, and May 18, 1872; January 2, 1873; March 12, 1874; January 10, 1875.
- The Arizona Star, Tucson, August 11, 1881 and July 19, 1888, p. 4, C. 3.
- The Tucson Citizen, December 18 and 19, 1914 (obituary).