

GASS, OCTAVIUS DECATUR

GASS, OCTAVIUS DECATUR, born in Troy Township, Richland County, Ohio, February 28, 1829, son of John and Ann (McCluer) Gass; his father was born in Brooke County, Virginia, in 1798; married, Mary Virginia Simpson, a native of Missouri, ● *

_____ on _____, 18____; children, Fenton M., Perry P., Florin A., Octavius D. Jr., Lela (Mrs. Joseph Slaughter) and Ina (Mrs. W. Hollenbeck).

Sailed from Baltimore, Maryland, via Cape Horn, for California in 1849; his first work in San Francisco was unloading portable houses, which were a part of the ship's cargo, for which he received \$10 per day; shortly afterwards he went to El Dorado County to engage in placer mining and followed that occupation in northern California for some time.

Moved to Los Angeles where he served as Zanjero of the town in 1853-54; was made a Master Mason in Los Angeles Lodge No. 42, F. & A.M. on November 22, 1855; engaged, without success, in tin mining at Temescal, 1858-59; came to Arizona late in 1862 and was listed as a miner in the Territorial Census taken in 1864, ● t El Dorado Canyon in what later became Mohave County. *See 10?*

He located at Callville in 1865 and was elected that year to represent Mohave County in the 2d Arizona Territorial Legislature; he was instrumental in the creation of Pah-Ute County from the northern half of Mohave County, the greater part of which was west of the Colorado River with Callville as the County seat; elected from Pah-Ute County to the 3d and 4th Territorial Councils, 1866-67, and was chosen as President of that body at Prescott on September 4, 1867; gave his occupation as a Ranchoero; elected from

Pah-Ute and Mohave ^{to} Counties to the 5th Territorial Council; he and Andrew Smith Gibbons, also a member of the Legislature, left Callville on November 1, 1868, in a 14 foot boat and went down the Colorado River to Yuma on their way to attend the session at Tucson; they arrived late because stage traffic east of Yuma was interrupted due to the killing of a driver by the Apaches.

Served as Postmaster at Callville from October 18, 1867, to June 15, 1869, when the office was discontinued; said to have explored many miles of the lower Grand Canyon of the Colorado River; in 1866 he acquired the Las Vegas ranch in what later became Clark County, Nevada, which had irrigation water for 400 acres and range for 3,000 cattle; he sold the ranch for \$6,748 on August 2, 1880, to Archibald Stewart.

Moved to the Yucaipe Valley, San Bernardino County, California in 1884 where he made his home until about 1904; resided at Bryn Mawr, near Redlands, California, for the last 20 years of his life and died there on December 10, 1924, aged 95; buried in the Redlands Cemetery.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Graham, A.A. - History of Richland County, Ohio, 1807-1880, pp. 899-900.
 Parish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 4, pp. 149, 165, 184; Vol. 5, pp. 1, 2, 33.
 Kelly, G. H. - Legislative History of Arizona, pp. 18, 23, 25, 33, 41.
 McClintock, J.H. - Mormon Settlement of Arizona, pp. 124, 125.
 Serughan, J.G. - Nevada, pp. 591, 593.
 Ingersoll, L.A. - Century Annals of San Bernardino County, Los Angeles, 1904, p. 694.
 Newmark, H. - Sixty years in Southern California, Boston, 1930, p. 36.
 Journals of the 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th Arizona Territorial Legislatures, 1865-68.
 Lincoln County, Nevada, records - Book P of Real Estate Deeds, p. 131.
 California Vital Statistics - Death Certificate, 1924.

WANTED

Any references to him in the Prescott Arizona Miner or in the Tucson Arizonian. *no Arizona in State Library*