

GAY, MERVIN G.

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GAY, MERVIN G _____

Born at _____, Louisiana, _____, 18__ (about 1827).

Son of _____ and _____
(born in Alabama) (born in Louisiana)

Married, Maria _____ at _____.

on _____, 18____, who was born in Sonora, Mexico, about 1842.

Children, Teodora, born in Arizona, 1869 (Mrs. _____).

Listed, U.S. Census, August 14, 1860, at San Pedro Settlement, Arizona County, New Mexico; age 33, born in Louisiana, occupation - Trader, property valued at \$1900; the following notice was published in the Tucson Arizonian of January 26, 1860:

To the Public: - I wish to inform emigrants and others wanting stock that I have on my ranch at this time twenty-five head of horses and mules for sale or exchange. I will keep on hand throughout the year a number of fine horses and mules for trade.

M. G. Gay, San Pedro Ranch.

He was employed as Guide at \$2 per day by Lieutenant R. S.C. Lord, 1st U.S. Dragoons, at Fort Breckenridge on the San Pedro River from February 10 to 23, 1861; was in Tucson when that place was occupied by Confederate troops from February to May, 1862; listed, Territorial Census, 1864, at Tucson, age 37, occupation - Farmer, property valued at \$1,000, resident in Arizona 6 years; the Prescott Arizona Miner of September 16, 1867, included a communication from Tucson which stated that:

During the past week, the Indians made a raid upon our friend, Mr. George Cox, when he was stopping overnight at the ranch of Captain Gay, nine miles north of this place, taking his team of horses, a fine span belonging to Mr. J.B. Allen.

Listed, U.S. Census, 1870, at Tucson, age 42, occupation - Stockraiser, property valued at \$2250; the Arizonian of May 14, 1870, reported an affray at his ranch:

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The Arizonian
14 May 1870

"Sheetists" - Sunday last Captain Gay's ranch was the scene of a little pistol practice which resulted rather seriously for a couple of quadrupeds present: Two Mexicans rode up to Gay's herder, a man named Gwin, and wished him to explain by what authority he pastured his herd upon land which they contended belonged to them exclusively. Gwin knowing that his employer owned the land and wishing to be rid of his visitors, requested them to adjourn to a region proverbial for high temperature.

This was too much for a scion of proud Spain, so drawing a revolver from his belt, he dismounted the offensive G. by shooting the mule upon which he sat. Both Mexicans then approached Gwin with the evident intention of administering further chastisement, when the latter discharged his revolver at the head of the Don's caballe, seriously fracturing the animal's jaw.

This play seemed rather dangerous, which fact did not escape observation on the part of the caballeros, who, dashing off at a break-neck speed* soon reached town, and presenting themselves before the sheriff, accused Gwin of an attempt to send them to the "burn whence no traveller ever returns." Mr. G. was promptly arrested, and when the hour appointed for his examination had arrived it was discovered that his accusers had not only failed to appear, but had actually left town.

He went into the dairy business near Tucson as is evidenced by an advertisement in the Citizen:

PURE AND CHEAP MILK.

On and after Monday, Feb. 16, 1874, the undersigned will deliver every morning to the door of customers in Tucson, FRESH MILK without any water in it at ten cents per quart.

M. G. Gay, Tucson, Feb. 14, 1874.

His dairy must have been located near the half-way house according to an item in the Citizen of March 21:

Captain Gay has determined that no more races will come off on Sunday at the half-way house while it is under his care. The track is open on any other day.

Served as Poundmaster, Village of Tucson, 1873-77; according to George Hand's Diary he was "contending hard" for one of the five seats to which Pima County was entitled in the lower house of the 9th Territorial Legislature but failed of election in November, 1876, receiving only 63 votes whereas

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the winners all had over 200; George Hand made this record in his diary for February 22, 1883:

Capt. M. Gay found dead in his house Of pneumonia. He had been Unwell
● 080 time. Only called the doctor ye sterday.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Rebellion Records, Series 1, Vol. 50, part 2, pp. 151-152.
The Arizona Historical Review, April, 1932, p. 60.
Barter G. W. - Tucson City Directory, 1881, pp. 16, 19.
Probate Court of Pima County, Docket No. 294.
The Great Register of Pima County, 1876-1880.
The Arizonian, Tucson, January 26, 1860, 3:1 and May 14, 1870.
The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, January 11 and October 27, 1874; February 14, 2:3 and March 21, 1874, 3:2; November 11, 1876, 2:1.
The Arizona Miner, Prescott, September 16, 1870, 1:3.
The Arizona Enterprise, March 10, 1892, 1:4.