

GENUNG, CHARLES BALDWIN

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GENUNG, CHARLES BALDWIN, born at Penn Yan, Yates County, New York, July 22, 1839; son of Oshea and Amanda M. (Baldwin) Genung; married, Ida Elizabeth Hester Smith (1848-1933) at San Bernardino, California, February 16, 1869; children, Frank Marsh, Dan Baldwin, Fred Williams, George Walter, Edward Burton, Earl, Dr. Mabel Amanda, Louise B. (Mrs. Richard Walcott), and Grace Laura (Mrs. Harry S. Chapman).

At age of 11 went with his mother via Panama to San Francisco in 1850; they first located in Marysville, Yuba County, and then in Downieville, Sierra County, where she established a daguerreotype photograph gallery; there he worked for the Sierra Citizen and later at age of 16, ran a milk route; his mother moved her photograph gallery to San Francisco and successfully carried on until about 1858 when they went to Hong Kong, China, to engage in portrait photography and remained there over a year; upon their return to California, he followed mining and for a year or more rode the range in the Sacramento Valley.

Late in the summer of 1863, he left San Francisco with Dr. John R. Howard and John W. Beauchamp and went by stage to Los Angeles where they bought saddle horses and a pack horse, at San Bernardino they were joined by Cal Ayers and by Ben Weaver, a half breed son of Pauline Weaver, who had been over the route and knew all the watering places; after 13 days of difficult travel they arrived at the Colorado River and crossed at Bradshaw's Ferry to Olive City.

The party went on to La Paz and then up the river bottom for about 30 miles thence via Black Tanks to Bill Williams Fork; for two days they followed up that stream and then across country to

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Date Creek; from there they traveled via Antelope Creek to **Weaver**, where they bought a **rocker** and were **joined** by Alexander P. Mahan who **had lived six years in Mexico** and understood **working gold and silver ores with an arrastra**; from **Weaver** they crossed the mountains to **the Hassayampa** at what was afterwards the **site** of the **Walnut Grove dam**, then prospected upstream about **10 miles** where they discovered **the Montgomery (Climax) lode** which became **the first quartz mine** located north of **the Gila River**.

Listed as Miner **in the April, 1864, Territorial Census**, resident in **Arizona 8 months**; voted at **Weaver** at **the first Territorial election, July 18, 1864**; **assisted Henry Wickenburg** in building and operating **the first arrastra** to extract **gold from Vulture Mine ores**; in **1867** **George W. Dent**, brother-in-law to **President Grant**, placed him in **charge** of the **Colorado River** reservation where with Indian labor he took out **the first irrigation canal** built with Federal funds in **Arizona**; listed **U.S. Census, 1870**, at **Peeples Valley, Yavapai County, A.T.**, occupation - **Farmer**.

In **June, 1871**, he went with a party of **16 men** headed by **John Townsend** in an **11 days** campaign against **the Tonto Apaches**, who had **killed the herder** at the **Agua Fria** ranch and drove off **160 head** of live **stock**; the party was joined by **2d Lieutenant Charles Morton** and **28 men of Troop A, 3d U.S. Cavalry** from **Camp Verde** and had several engagements with **hostile Indians** between there and **Tonto Creek**, in which **56 of them were killed**; returning via **Fort McDowell** **the party** was **given** a banquet in **Prescott** and **he and Townsend** were presented with new **Winchester rifles**.

Appointed as the first **Postmaster** when the **Post Office** was established at **Peeples Valley**, October 18, 1875, and served until August 15, 1876; again served as Postmaster from February 23, 1877 to November 15, 1878 and from November 1 to May 10, 1881; he also became Justice of the Peace of that precinct in 1878; during the years of his residence in **Peeples Valley** he made numerous prospecting trips and located a number of mining claims particularly in the vicinity of **Octave** and **Stanton**; he also farmed and owned live stock on the range and is listed in Disturnell's Arizona Gazetteer as interested in a butcher shop at the **Vulture Mine** in 1881; he subsequently moved to the Salt River Valley and remained there for about 6 years when he returned to **Yavapai County**; was Constable and Deputy Sheriff at **Yarnell**, 1893-94; he lived at **Forepaugh**, **Maricopa County** for several years being appointed as the first Postmaster on **April 25, 1911**.

The following is quoted from the announcement of his death in the Prescott Journal-Miner:

His character was exceptional, and from the beginning to the close of his earthly career in this section, dating back to 1863, the remembrance of a strong and brave man, is tenderly recalled. Genung was of exceptional personality, in which the resolute was entwined with that of the gentle, and the generous with that of the noble. His well known life, was sacrificial toward accomplishing his laudable purposes, and above everything else his respect for the law was uppermost and freely extended in many instances, in which his valiant services were sought and openly given.

His brave deeds, executed single handed, in especially the trying days of Indian warfare, are known

to many, while on the other hand his open hostility to the criminal element made him despised by the lawless. Of all Arizona pioneers the fame and valor of the deceased will be cherished as time rolls on, and few if any were his peers.

Died at his home in Peoples Valley, Yavapai County, Arizona, August 18, 1916, aged 77; buried, Citizens Cemetery, Prescott, Arizona,

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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- Disturnell, W.C. - Arizona Business Directory and Gazetteer, S.F., 1881, p. 197.
- U.S. Post Office Department - Appointment records.
- The Arizona Miner, Prescott, April 17, 3:1, June 12, 3:3, July 10, 3:1 and November 6, 1869, 3:1; January 15, 3:1 and January 22, 1870, 3:1; May 18, 3:1, November 9, 3:1 and November 23, 1872; September 24, 1875, 3:1.
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- The Prescott Courier, March 11, 5:3 and March 24, 1897, 3:3; October 2, 1905, 3:1; August 26, 1916, 1:3-5 (obituary).
- The Journal-Miner, Prescott, December 20, 1897, 4:3; January 25, 1904, 2:2; August 20, 3:5-8, August 22, 1916, 6:7 (obituary and funeral).
- The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, June 4, 1902, 3:2; November 12, 1933, 2:1 and April 13, 1938, sec. 2, 5:6-7-8.