

# JOHNSON, JOHN WESLEY

JOHNSON, JOHN WESLEY (Poker)

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Born at \_\_\_\_\_, Tennessee, \_\_\_\_\_ 18\_\_\_\_ (about 1838).

Son of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Married, Lucinda Strahan of Verde Valley, February 20, 1879;  
children, Albert S., David C. and Lillie May (Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_).

Listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d District  
(Yavapai County) age 27, born in Tennessee, single, occupation -  
Miner, resident in Arizona 3 months and in the 1870 U.S. Census  
at Prescott, age 32, occupation - Farmer; the following references  
to him were printed in the Prescott Arizona Miner:

August 27, 1870 - - J. W. Johnson (familiarily  
called "Poker Johnson" from the fact of his  
having once poked a furious she-bear between  
the ribs with a butcher knife, until he per-  
suaded her to will him her cubs and die),  
has leased Dunn's meat market, and stocked it  
with good beef, mutton, vegetables of all  
kinds, poultry, eggs, etc., and tenders an  
invitation to people of every race and clime  
to call on him and buy some of his good things.

February 11, 1871 - - The burning of J. W.  
Johnson's house, in Willow Valley, last week,  
was a more serious affair than was at first  
supposed, Mr. Johnson's loss being at least  
a couple of thousand dollars, while Henry  
Gehrens lost clothing, four or five hundred  
dollars in currency, etc. The origin of the  
fire is a mystery.

June 10, 1871 - - J. W. Johnson and others re-  
turned here yesterday from the silver region  
to the northwest of Skull and Kirkland Valleys,  
and a party of men left for same destination  
early this week. The country contains gold  
and silver bearing ledges, but the richest,  
it appears, is a huge chimney or blow-out of  
quartz, almost, if not quite as rich in silver  
as the Tiger. Tests will soon be made, when  
we hope to be able to render a good account  
of these deposits.

Here, now, are about 40 men, awaiting the arrival of 50 others from Nevada, who intend to follow the lead of an old miner, who says he can take them about one hundred miles to the east of Prescott and show them very rich placer diggings, from which he, with others, were driven by Indians.

December 19, 1873 - - Last week J. W. Johnson, alias Poker Johnson, was skylarking with a lady at the Verde and met with a severe accident. He had his pistol in his belt with the hammer on a cap, and the lady had a stick in her hand, with which she struck at him, and as he dodged the blow the stick struck the hammer, the charge exploded, and the ball entered the calf of Johnson's leg and went down into the heel. The wound inflicted was severe, and fears were entertained that amputation might become necessary.

March 2, 1877 - - J. W. Johnson, who settled on Willow Creek, five miles north of Prescott in 1863, and continued to live there from that time until two years ago, and now a resident of Verde Valley, arrived this morning from that place.

April 9, 1880 - - J. W. Johnson returned to Verde Valley yesterday, after a sojourn with friends in Prescott for several days.

Died at \_\_\_\_\_ Yavapai County, A.T., August 26 or 28, 1885; buried \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Probate Court of Yavapai County - Docket No. 206  
 Yavapai County Marriage Records - Book 1, p. 94.  
 The Great Register of Yavapai County - 1876, 1882,  
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, January 2, 3:1 and January 9, 1869,  
 2:2; August 27, 1870, 3:2; February 11, 3:3 and June 10,  
 1871, 2:2; December 19, 1873, 3:2; March 2, 1877, 4:2,  
 April 9, 1880, 4:2.  
 The Prescott Courier, December 29, 1883, 4:2 (Banta).  
 The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, December 25, 1897, 7:2 (Monroe).

#### WANTED

Obituaries in the Prescott or other newspapers and additional references to him.