

# MERCER, THOMAS LILLIE

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Born at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 18 \_\_\_\_.

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

Married Isabella Newton at Tubac, A. T., July 26, 1883, by J. W. Wood, Probate Judge of Pima County; children, Newton, Lillie, Isabella (Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_), Pauline (Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_) and Irene (Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_).

Came to Tubac in 1859; the Tucson Arizonian of January 26, 1860, published the following advertisement:

THE MINERS HOTEL, TUBAC, ARIZONA. The undersigned have made their arrangements, desire to call the attention of the public to their new hotel, situated at the south end of town. The house will be opened to visitors about the first of January.

Mercer and McGovern, Proprietors,

Served as Postmaster at Tubac from March 26, 1877 to September 9, 1879; reappointed, January 13, 1880, and served until the post office was discontinued, September 6, 1887; as Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 2, Pima County, A.T., on June 8, 1885, he addressed the following letter to the editor of the Tucson Arizona Star:

Will you please inform the officers of the "best military the world ever saw" through the columns of your widely read journal that some of their precious wards and darlings, the Apache devils, are roaming around my district, three having been seen by three different parties on the main road leading from this point to the line on Friday, and one by several persons on the road leading to Salero yesterday.

I have carefully investigated these encounters for the benefit of the residents of my district, so as to be sure the reports were true before taking any steps in the matter and am satisfied the parties met were VERITABLE APACHES. Knowing them to be murderers and thieves, I have constituted every man here a special constable and given them orders to bring into my court every such devil they may meet, dead or alive, or if unable to bring them in to drop them wherever encountered and then inform me of the circumstances, promising them if I cannot obtain the Territorial head money or their constable fees for them, to pay the latter myself

besides giving them a bonus for assisting in saving the lives and properties of their fellow mortals.

It is generally said that Tubac is unhealthy, and unless I am mistaken, these red devils will find that to be true. This valley is a narrow one in which there is not room for the hell born Apache and its residents to exist. Nine men left here this morning fully armed and equipped to obey my orders. As the "best military, etc." will not protect us, we will, if possible, protect ourselves.

We have lost Apaches, and intend to find them and make "good Indians" of them if we can. It is true that they have committed no depredations here that we have heard of, nor do we intend they shall. Their presence here is sufficient cause to us for their removal.

Listed, Hinton's Handbook to Arizona, 1878, Merchant at Tubac; listed, Disturnell's Arizona Gazetteer, 1881, General Merchandise, Justice of the Peace and Notary Public; the Tucson Arizona Star reported on October 1, 1887, that:

The Santa Rita Land and Mining Company has filed suit to oust T. L. Mercer from the Calabasas grant. He has lived on the place for 16 years. The plaintiff claims it under a Mexican land grant title.

Member, Tucson Lodge No. 4, F. & A. M.; died at Nogales, Pima County, A.T., May 3, 1894, buried \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Probate Court of Pima County - Docket No. 661 - B

U. S. Post Office Department - Appointment records.

Hinton, R. J. - Handbook to Arizona, S.F., 1878, Appendix, p.60.

Disturnell, W.C. \*Arizona Business Directory and Gazetteer, S.F., 1881, pp. 184, 217.

The Arizonian, Tucson, December 15, 1859 and January 26, 1860, 3:1

The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, November 30, 1877, 1:3

The Arizona Star, Tucson, June 10, 1885, 4:2 and October 1, 1887, 4:2