

MILLER, JOHN

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MILLER, JOHN

Born at _____ on _____ 18__.

Son of _____ and _____

Married, Jesus Preciado, at Tucson, A. T. June 30, 1872.

children, John Jr., Mary (Mrs. _____) and several others _____

Came to Arizona in 1862; he made the following affidavit which was included in a memorial to Congress dated February 17, 1871:

John Miller, sworn: Resides in Pima County. In July, 1869 on the San Pedro River, the Apache Indians murdered a man by the name of Culver, while plowing in his field, and drove away his two horses. In September, 1869, they stole from a neighbor names Hartzel, two horses. In October 1869 they stole two horses from witness.

In May, 1870, they attacked the Cienega Stage Station, 25 miles east of Tucson, and killed two men; and witness had to abandon the station on account of said hostilities. Has lived in Arizona 8 years, and has never known the Indians more hostile than now.

The Tucson Arizonian printed two accounts confirmatory of his affidavit:

December 4, 1869 - - Indians:- The sons of the forest have again made their presence known in the San Pedro Valley. On Saturday night they stole two horses out of Mr. Miller's corral near the crossing, and escaped with them to the mountains. This is a heavy loss to an industrious man who, with limited means, labored diligently to gain a fair start in business and had well nigh succeeded. In this robbery alone the loss sustained by Mr. Miller will amount to about \$400.

April 23, 1870 - - Indians:- ...On Saturday last a large party of those thieves- doubtless the same that committed some depredations at the Rillito about six days previously, as the trail, which has been followed for a considerable distance, leads in that direction- came to the station at Cienega, kept by J. Miller, and quietly concealed themselves at a short distance from the house. Bringing their guns to bear upon the door, one of the band uttered a howl, somewhat after the manner of a coyote. The parties inside the house hearing the strange noise, a soldier present advanced and opened the door, but had no sooner exposed his body to the assassins than a bullet crashed through his breast and he fell back, dead.

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He moved to Tucson, was elected Constable, assuming office on January 1, 1871, and on the 3d killed Oriolo Estrada, a Mexican Wanted for attempting to murder a woman at Fort McDowell, who tried to shoot him; in January, 1872, he was elected Marshal of the Village of Tucson; the Tucson Arizona Citizen printed the following:

July 20, 1872 -- Constable Miller talks of resigning his several official positions in town and accepting of some one at the Grant Agency- he thinks to teach the Apaches what he knows about farming. The Apaches have several times taught him what they know about burning stations and murdering the inmates and robbing generally, and him in particular. About two years ago, he was comfortably located at Cienega Station, but the Apache depredations there were so frequent and &strous that to save his life and family he abandoned the place for safety in town.

June 21, 1873 -- Notice:- The partnership heretofore existing between John Miller and J. Moore in the Restaurant business is this day dissolved. The business will be carried on by Mr. Miller, who will collect all debts and pay all indebtedness of the late firm.

June 15

John Miller
John Moore

In January, 1874, he was elected Village Poundmaster and served during that year; he also served for a time as Jailer at the County Court House but according to George Hand's diary was suspended from office on October 9, 1877; The Arizona Citizen, then published at Florence, reported on:

January 11, 1878 -- Our old reliable and industrious friend Mr. John Miller arrived in town last Tuesday from Tucson with his family. John intends to open a tin-shop in Florence, and the necessary materials have already been shipped from San Francisco.

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March 15, 1878 -- All kinds of tinware made to order, promptly neatly and well, right at home. Mr. John Miller has just received his new stock of tinware, and parties desiring pans, pails, plates, spouts, cups or any article in this line can be quickly accommodated by mentioning their wants to Mr. Miller.

May 3, 1878 -- Mr. John Miller, the stirring proprietor of the Florence tin shop has moved into Mr. Simpson's new building on Main Street, where he is well prepared to do all kinds of job work in his line. Mr. Miller is daily expecting a large invoice of stoves and tinware direct from San Francisco, and his stock will always be kept up to suit the market.

He was a passenger on the stage leaving Tucson on August 13, 1878, which was held up by a masked robber near Point of Mountain who took the mail sacks and express box and made him give up his pocketbook containing about \$226; elected that year as Justice of the Peace at Florence and the newspaper reports indicate that he held the office in 1879-82 and 1889-90 and that he became postmaster at Florence in November, 1885; elected probate Judge of Pinal County in November, 1890; the following items appeared in the Florence Arizona Enterprise:

November 18, 1882 -- An unruly bovine, at the slaughter pen, ran against Judge Miller the other day with a force that fractured three of the Judge's ribs.

November 17, 1888 -- A peach tree in Mr. John Miller's garden got a little out of its reckoning, probably on account of the election, and several days ago it put on a brilliant covering of blossoms. Now Mr. Miller is a staunch Democrat, else it might be supposed that the tree was exulting over the Republican victory. The zeal of the tree is worthy of greater commendation than its discretion.

October 26, 1889 -- postmaster Miller's requisition for postage stamps fell into the hands of the stage robbers on October 2d, and they have so far failed to honor it. This post office is consequently short of stamps and is compelled to depend upon the neighboring supplies pending returns from a new requisition.

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Died at _____ on _____ 19 (after 1899)

Buried _____ Cemetery _____

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Pima County Marriage records - 1872.

Great Register of Pima County, 1876.

The Weekly Arizonian, Tucson, March 7, 2:4, December 4, 1869, 3:1, April 23, 1870, 3:2; January 7, 1871, 3:1-2.The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, January 13, 3:3, November 9, 3:2, July 20, 3:2, November 16, 1872, 1:4 and 2:2; June 21, 1873, 2:2; January 10, 1874, 3:2
— Florence January 1, 3:2; March 15, 3:2, May 3, 3:2, August 16, 1878, 3:3, March 7, 1879, 4:1.The Arizona Enterprise, Florence, March 4, 2:1, July 29, 3:3, November 18, 1882, 3:1; June 30, 3:1, November 17, 3:1, December 1, 1888, 2:4; October 26, 1889, 3:2, November 8, 1890, 2:5-6.The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, November 14, 1885, 2:3.