

MONROE, GEORGE

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Born at _____ Floyd County, Indiana _____ 18__ (about 1835)

Son of _____ and _____.

Married, Mary _____ at _____ on _____
18__, who was born in Mississippi, about 1846.

Children _____.

Enrolled, age 26, at Jackson, Amador County, August 18 and mustered in August 26, 1861, at the Presidio of San Francisco to serve 3 years as Private in Captain J. P. Hargrave's Company C, 1st. California Infantry; went with the Company to Southern California and marched to Fort Yuma, thence to Tucson, arriving May 21, 1862; left there on July 20 and was stationed on the Rio Grande until June, 1863; the Company went to Fort Wingate, N. M., in July and left there in November for Fort Whipple, A. T. arriving in January, 1864.

Listed, Territorial Census, April 1864, 3d District, age 29, occupation - Soldier, resident in Arizona 4 months; a part of the Company returned to New Mexico where he was honorably discharged at Los Pinos on August 31, 1864; that he returned to Yavapai County at an early date is shown by an article written by John H. Marion, editor of the Prescott Arizona Miner, and published in that newspaper on September 11, 1869;

GLORY TO GOD AND OUR CAVALRY

Piously inclined people on the other side of the Rocky Mountains, who read the Miner, may imagine, upon glancing their eyes over the above heading, that the editor is a decidedly profane wretch, but such, we assure them is not the case. Our moral standing is good, but our manly bosom throbs to its inmost recess over the good news

we are about to make known; we feel grateful to God and thankful to the agents through which He accomplished his purpose, and take this occasion to publicly proclaim our gratitude.

The sudden death of twelve strapping, murderous Indians, is sufficient cause to stir the blood and gladden the heart of any frontiersman. Then, be it known that on the 22nd day of August last, "Peace Commissioner Somerby," (who also holds the rank of Captain in the 8th Cavalry), with twenty-nine fighting "friends" of Company B, 8th Cavalry, citizens Willard Rice and George Monroe, had the very good fortune to get within shooting distance of a band of about 30 villainous Indians, nine of whom were taken suddenly ill and died on the spot with their moccasins on. The remainder saved themselves by flight.

The Commissioner and his "friends," then proceeded eastward, almost as far as Camp Reno, without seeing any of their red bretheren. They then turned back, re-crossed the Verde, and while traveling towards the Agua Frio, met three healthy Apache butchers, clad in fine Navajo blankets. The sequel is easily foretold. All three of the scoundrels were then and there sent to the happy hunting ground.

We got the foregoing and following facts from George Monroe: The command started from Camp Date Creek, August 18th; reached Wickenburg the same day; left Wickenburg on the 19th, traveled northward to a small stream that empties into Castle Creek; is a valley of which they found a few acres of corn growing, which, of course, they destroyed. Vigilant search was then made for a rancharia which they supposed ought to accompany the corn but none was discovered. Started south and after traveling several miles met very unexpectedly (to both parties) the band of Indians above alluded to. This is the history of Somerby's last scout, and we pray that the next may be equally brilliant and fruitful of good results.

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Listed, U. S. Census, 1870 with his wife at Wickenburg, Yavapai County, A. T., age 35, occupation - Miner; the Phoenix Herald of January 26, 1891 stated that:

George Monroe, one of Arizona's most ancient Hassayampers, is in town from his King Solomon mines beyond Picacho. Some Kansas capitalists have purchased Judge Wade's third interest in that mine and expect to close a bargain for the whole property soon. Work will then be started on a large scale. An eighty-two foot shaft discloses some very fine ore in most satisfactory quantities.

Mr. Monroe belonged to that historical California column that saved Arizona, New Mexico and other southwestern territory to the Union. He is still vigorous and apparently destined to a long life that loves a friend equally with the liver's self.

The following item appeared in the Yuma Sun of November 19, 1897:

George Monroe, discoverer of the famous Castle Hot Springs, who has been mining in Arizona for over thirty years, with indifferent success, has finally "struck it rich." He is developing a find near Wickenburg in southern Yavapai county, from which, at a depth of seventy feet, he has taken samples that go \$900 per ton. The ledge is eighteen inches in width.

In reporting his death the Phoenix Arizona Republican made this comment:

When George Monroe died one of the earliest and most active of Arizona pioneers now living passed away. He had made Wickenburg his headquarters for nearly a third of a century and was identified with many of the most important mining strikes in Yavapai county. He is said to have been a member of the first party

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that went into the Bradshaws and he was the first operator on what has since been called Groom Creek, named after Robert Groom, himself an Arizona antiquity. Monroe was the discoverer of what is now called the Amazon group of mines, owned by Mr. Groom.

He was also the discoverer of the Castle Creek hot springs. The manner of the discovery is doubtful, for early events in this Territory are veiled in a mist that is little better than tradition. The pioneers did not mean to lie about things. They were clear enough to them at the time, but what with drinking whiskey to ward off homesickness, fighting Apaches and engaging in daily thrilling events, an occurrence of one day was quickly pushed into the past and became blurred. Thus the pioneers obtained the reputation of liars and the fabled effect of the waters of the Haseyampa had its origin.

One story of the finding of the hot springs is that Monroe, pursued by a band of Apaches, fled up a gulch and penetrated it farther than white man or Indian had ever gone before. Farther than the white men had gone, because they had never been led in that direction, and farther than the Indians had gone because they had heard of something fearful and mysterious within the impenetrable recess.

Another story less romantic is that Foker Johnson, who represented that he knew every foot of the country, had told a party of prospectors, of whom Monroe was one, of a short cut to Prescott. In following Mr. Johnson's direct path they wandered about in the Bradshaws for several days and accidentally came upon the spring.

At the time of his death, Monroe was the owner of the Picacho mine, about fourteen miles this side of Wickenburg. He has only one living relative in the Territory, and so far as is known none anywhere else. One thing that made him a unique figure in the early days was that he was an ardent Republican. He was known as an honest man and faithful to his friends.

Died at Wickenburg, Maricopa County, A. T., December ____,
1898, aged 63; buried Pioneer Cold Cemetery Wickenburg.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- The Adjutant General's Office - Military service records.
Orton, R. H. - Records of California Men in the War of the
Rebellion, Sacramento, 1890, p. 348.
The Arizona Miner, Prescott, September 11, 1869, 3:1.
The Phoenix Herald, January 26, 1891, 3:2; and January 7,
1898, 7:2.
The Yuma Sun, November 19, 8:2 and December 31, 1897, 7:4
(death notice).
The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, December 25, 4:2 (obituary)
and December 26, 1897, 7:2.