

MORGAN, HENRY, born in Wisconsin about 1841; son of _____ and _____; never married; listed Territorial Census, April, 1864 at Pima Villages, A.T., occupation, Engineer; resident in Arizona 2 weeks; in writing of the pioneer days in Phoenix, James M. Barney thus speaks of him:

Henry Morgan came to Arizona in the early part of 1864 and settled on the Gila, where in time he established a trading post and ferry, located a few miles to the north of old Maricopa Wells. Here, with a partner by the name of Dan Dietrich, he remained for many years trading with the nearby Indian farmers. Morgan's Ferry, on the regular road from Prescott to Tucson and Yuma, became the best known crossing of the Gila in pioneer days.

Daniel Dietrich, junior member of the firm, while looking after the business at their trading-post at Morgan's Ferry, on the Gila, was mysteriously murdered at that place, but neither the circumstances surrounding his death nor the identity of his slayer (or slayers), were ever cleared up; it has remained to this day one of the unsolved crimes of the brooding desert, whose secrets are seldom revealed.

He and his partner established a branch of their business in Phoenix as is shown by an item in the Arizona Miner of September 21, 1872:

H. Morgan & Co. have finished their new building on Washington Street, joining on to the new building of John George so as to form but one structure. A piazza extends along the whole front built entirely of sawed lumber, neat and tasty in appearance, and, with the trees in front—their rich green foliage forming a natural curtain—it is a pleasant place in which to loaf.

Barney continues the narrative as follows:

This firm later became known as "Morgan and Dietrich," Their place of business was located on the north side of East Washington Street, on a portion of the ground now occupied by the building which houses the Woolworth Company. The great Phoenix fire of 1886 (sweeping the north side of Washington, between Center and First Streets) caused the firm a heavy loss and with other setbacks—principally inability to collect outstanding debts—it finally passed out of existence.

While operating his trading post, which was located but a short distance from the Pima and Maricopa Indian Reservation, Mr. Morgan became very proficient in the use of various Indian dialects and often, after he became poor, acted as special interpreter in Indian cases in the local courts, receiving as high as \$20.00 a day for his services. He was a man of few words and sometimes decided opinions but had a kindly personality and was amiable and friendly with those he liked.

MORGAN, HENRY

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Admitted to the Arizona State Hospital, near Phoenix, December 2, 1905, where he died on October 15, 1908, aged 67; buried in the old city (Pioneers) Cemetery, Phoenix, Arizona.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

McClintock, J.H. - Arizona, The Youngest State, Chicago, 1916, pp. 613-14.

Great Register of Maricopa County, 1876, 1882.

Arizona State Hospital, Phoenix - Records of Admissions and deaths.

Barney, J.M. - Manuscript, "Phoenix - Its Pioneer Days and People", 1939.

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