

MURRAY, WILLIAM R.

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MURRAY, WILLIAM R.

Born at _____ North Carolina _____ 18__ (about 1827)

Son of _____ and _____

Married _____ at _____ on _____ 18__

Children _____

Listed, U. S. Census, October 5, 1860, at Gila City, age 33, born in North Carolina, occupation - Farmer; Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d District (Yavapai County), age 37, born in North Carolina, married, family in Arizona, occupation - Doctor, resident in Arizona 4 years; at a meeting of miners on Lynx Creek held on July 12, 1863, he was designated as one of a committee of three "to measure and stake all claims on this stream, said committee to receive two bits per claim as remuneration"; the following account of his death appeared in Prescott, Arizona Miner on June 15, 1867:

We regret to announce the death by violence of our old and widely known pioneer, Mr. William R. Murray, which occurred at the Quartz Rock Saloon, in this town, on Thursday afternoon, the 13th inst., at six o'clock, as follows: Mr. Murray and several friends were playing cards, when a young man, George Crafts, made some interference. Murray objected, but Crafts persisted, when Murray threw the cards in his face.

Crafts at once drew his pistol, when Murray, who was not armed, seized a revolver from the belt of a person standing by and evidently meant from his motions to deal Crafts a blow with it. It went off, but the ball did not hit Crafts, who then began to fire. Murray discharged his pistol a second time but the barrel burst. Crafts fired three times, two shots piercing Murray in the breast near the heart, killing him instantly.

WILLIAM R. MURRAY

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Crafts was immediately arrested and lodged in the guardhouse at Fort Whipple. The coroner's jury returned a verdict that Murray came to his death by pistol wounds inflicted by George Crafts.

Murray came to Arizona some eight or ten years since and was long a resident in Pima County. He has been in this district for three or four years and was generally considered a large hearted, well-meaning, industrious citizen. He leaves an interesting wife and child.

Crafts is a young man from San Bernardino, and of respectable family, who will be shocked at his connection with this tragedy. His counsel waived an examination before Justice Blair and his case will go before the Grand Jury next week. Murray, who was a Mason, was buried yesterday afternoon with proper ceremonies in the new Masonic cemetery. There was a very large attendance.

The Miner for July 13, 1867, stated that in the trial of Crafts for shooting Murray the Jury could not agree.

Died at Prescott, Yavapai County, A.T., June 15, 1867, age 40; buried, Masonic Cemetery, Prescott.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Journal of the Pioneer and Walker Mining Districts, 1863 - 65, pp 5, 119

The Arizona Miner, Prescott, June 15, 3:1, July 13, 3:2, and October 26, 1867, 3:3; October 3, 1867, 2:3 and June 22, 1864, 4:2.

The Alta California, San Francisco, June 12, 1861, 1:2.

The Sacramento Union, July 15, 1861, 1:7.