OSBORN, JOHN PRESTON, born in Clark County, Tennessee, March 26, 1815; son of John and Elizabeth (Flannery) Osborn, both natives of Virginia; married, Perlina Elizabeth Swetnam (1821-1912), daughter of Neri Swetnam, in Lawrence County, Kentucky, March 25, 1841; children, William Lewis (1842-1927); John Wesley (1854-1931); Neri Picklin (1856-1943); David Ezra, Elizabeth M., Emma, Jeanette J. (Mrs. Thomas Barnum), Louisa A. (Mrs. John T. Alsap), Pauline Rebecca (Mrs. Joseph B. Cramer) and Rose G. (Mrs. D. Copeland).

He attended school in Virginia and then settled in eastern Kentucky where he was a merchant; moved with his family to Adams County in southwest Iowa about 1852 and went from there in the Spring of 1863 to Colorado Springs, Colorado; joined a party of emigrants which travelled via Santa Fe to northern Arizona arriving in Prescott, July 6, 1864, with 3 ox teams and wagons and some fine Durham cattle; according to Varney A. Stephens he built one of the first hotels in Prescott:

The Osborn House stood partly on the ground now (1900) occupied by Wallace's saloon, on Granite Street. The hotel was a two story frame structure and by no means a pretentious affair. Dressed lumber was worth $60 a thousand and nails 50 cents a pound in those days. The best hotel fare to be had was pork and beans, with coffee and bread. These meals cost $1 each. Mr. Stephens said that Osborn was one of the most industrious men he ever knew.

In January, 1878, the Prescott Enterprise stated:

Mr. J. F. Osborn, who boarded the members of the First Arizona Legislature, survived that embarrassment and is still alive and good natured.
In addition to his hotel in Prescott he began to cultivate a tract of land north of Prescott afterwards known as the Banghart place; in a depredation claim filed in 1890 against the United States and the Apache Indians he stated that he had suffered the following losses:

In March, 1865, the Indians scattered his stock herd on Willow Creek, about 4 miles north of Prescott, and got away with 8 milch cows and a horse each worth $100.

Soon afterwards he moved most of his herd to the Verde Valley where his son, William L. Osborn had a farm below the present site of Camp Verde; the Indians raided the valley in June, 1865, and drove 30 head of cattle, 12 of which belonged to him, one being a fine Durham bull worth $500 which he brought from Colorado.

In 1866, he built a house in Chino Valley with lumber that cost $100 per thousand; he went to San Bernardino, California, that year to place his children in school and to buy a load of provisions but when he returned he was told by his neighbors that the Indians had burned the house which was worth $1,000.

In 1867, a horse for which he paid $100 was being herded between Prescott and Fort Whipple by Amasa G. Dunn when the Indians killed Dunn's herder, stumped and stole the whole herd.

That same year he began farming on the Agua Fria River southeast of Prescott, and in the spring of 1868 the Indians stole a horse which had been turned out to graze for which he had paid
$80; he grew 60 acres of fine corn but when it ripened, the
Apaches came on different nights and stole large amounts of it;
corn was then selling at 4 to 5 cents a pound and the quantity
that they took was worth at least $1,100.

In the fall of 1869, members of his family being sick, he
had to move them to Prescott and he rented the place to George
Hamlin, furnishing seed, feed, plows, etc.; in the winter of
1869-70 a band of Apache-Mohaves set fire to the house about
daybreak and tried to kill the man who was inside but he got
away; the barn was locked but they burned it destroying 3 horses
in the stalls and about 10 tons of cribbed corn; the house that
was destroyed cost about $1,000; the barn and stored corn were
valued at $600 and the loss of farming implements and furniture
amounted to $400; the following items were printed in the Prescott
Arizona Miner:

October 9, 1869 - - "J. P. Osborn and family got
to town from their ranch on the lower Agua Fria,
Friday evening last, suffering with fever and
ague, which will not stay with them long in this
piney country."

January 22, 1870 - - "J. P. Osborn and family
threaten to migrate to Salt River."

January 29, 1870 - - "J. P. Osborn and family
started Monday last (January 24) for Phoenix,
Salt River."

Soon after his arrival in the Salt River Valley he settled
in the N.W. ¼ Section 4, 1 North, 3 East, and upon a cash payment
of $1.25 per acre obtained a patent to the 160 acres on April 10,
1874; the home that he built in 1871 was located at what is now
710 East McDowell Road; as a member of the Salt River Valley Town
Association he took a leading part in the selection of the Phoenix
townsite and assisted in surveying it; was a member of the first
Board of Trustees of the Phoenix School District organized in
1871; served from June 4, 1874, to May 18, 1875, as Chairman of
the Phoenix Townsite Commission which determined the ownership
and fixed a value upon all lots sold.

Died at Phoenix, Maricopa County, A.T., January 20, 1900,
aged 84; buried, A.O.U.W. Section, old City (Pioneers) Cemetery,
Phoenix.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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p. 175. (Neri Osborn).
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The Arizona Gazette, Phoenix, January 20, 1900, 8:2 (obituary),
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December 4, 1912, 8:2 (death of his wife).
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from the Prescott Courier).
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January 29, 1870.

October 8, 4:3 and October 20, 1866, 2:7; April 17, 3:2 and October 23, 1868, 3:2;
August 10, 3:3 and November 30, 1872, 1:4; April 9, 1875, 2:3.

Crop of barley about July. 1866.
Osborn. We have only 1864 Miner published bi-monthly.
and 1866 Daily Miner beginning in Oct., 1866.