

PIERCE, NATHANIEL PARDA

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PIERCE, NATHANIEL PARDA, born at Conquest, Cayuga County, New York, April 6, 1830; never married; moved with his parents to Michigan in 1834 and went to California in 1850.

Mustered in September 23, 1861, at San Francisco, to serve 3 years as 2d Lieutenant, Captain James Winne's Company G, 2d California Cavalry; stationed at Camp Alert, San Francisco, until December when he went with the Company to Camp Drum, near San Pedro, arriving in January 1862; moved to Camp Latham, between Los Angeles and Santa Monica in February and later stationed at Camp Independence in the Owens River Valley;

Captain Winne committed suicide at Los Angeles, May 8, 1862, and when a Lieutenant from another Company was promoted Captain and given command he and 1st Lieutenant Ira Buffum both resigned their commissions; resignation accepted and relieved from duty at Camp Independence, Inyo County, California, June 15, 1862.

Late in 1863 he came to the new gold discoveries in northern Arizona; was one of about 100 men under King S. Woolsey who took part in an expedition against the Apache Indians from March 29 to April 17, 1864; contributed \$20 toward the expenses of the expedition; listed, Territorial Census, April 1864, 3d District (Yavapai County) single, resident in Arizona 4 months, occupation, Miner, property valued at \$50; in September, 1869, he left Prescott with Henry Clifton and 20 other men to prospect for gold on the Little Colorado River and its tributaries.

When Van C. Smith was appointed on June 13, 1864, by Governor Goodwin as Sheriff for the 3d Judicial District, which became Yavapai County the following year, he selected Pierce as Under Sheriff; appointed by the Governor on September 21 as Constable at Prescott in place of John L. Forbes, who

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resigned; reappointed as Constable of Prescott Precinct and took office January 1, 1865; the Arizona Miner of October 30, 1869, stated that:

Our Sheriff, John L. Taylor, has appointed N.P. Pierce as Under-Sheriff. "Pard", although a Republican, will do his duty zealously.

The Miner for January 15, 1870, announced that Tom Hall and Robert Floyd, the two thieves who, a short time ago, stole Captain J.P. Hargraves' horse, were pursued by Deputy Sheriff N.P. Pierce and E.A. Gordon, who arrested and brought them back to town; listed, U.S. Census, July, 1870, at Prescott, occupation - Painter; engaged in mining north of the Bill Williams River as is shown by the following quotation from the Tucson Arizona Citizen of November 14, 1874:

N.P. Pierce and Henry Jaycox who have been some months at work with arrastras on their Greenwood mine near the eastern line of Mohave County, having had several offers for their mine, finally authorized R.W. Groom to sell it for a certain sum. After waiting some time they themselves sold it to Davis & Randall of Mineral Park, who at once started supplies and men to go to work, when Mr. Groom unexpectedly notified Messrs. Pierce & Jaycox that he had effected a sale to the agent of John P. Jones of Nevada for ten thousand dollars, and the money was ready.

Remained in Mohave County for some time but later returned to Prescott to again become a Peace Officer as is shown by these lines from the Prescott Enterprise of July 24, 1878:

Deputy Sheriff N.P. Pierce, who is one of Yavapai County's oldest and best boys, has just returned from the Tiger Mine.

Member, Aztlan Lodge No. 177 (1), F. and A.M., Prescott; was living there in 1891 and was a resident of Hillside, Yavapai County, A.T., in 1907; admitted to National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Los Angeles County, California, October 20, 1908, where he died on June 10, 1911, aged 81; buried, Soldiers Home Cemetery.

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Orten, R.H. - Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, Sacramento, 1890, pp. 191, 250.
- Barney, J.M. - Political Activities of the Territorial Governors, Manuscript, 1942, p. 1.
- The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records.
- U.S. Veterans Administration - Pension Records, S.C. 711,566.
- Masonic Grand Lodge of Arizona - Annual Proceedings, 1882-86.
- The Arizona Miner, Prescott, April 6, p. 3, c. 3, and September 21, 1864, p. 3, c. 1; January 9, p.3, c. 2, September 11, p. 3, c. 1 and October 30, p. 3, c. 2, 1869; January 15, 1870, p. 3, c. 1; January 8, 1875, p. 3, c. 1.
- The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, November 14, 1874, p. 2, c. 2.
- The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, July 24, p. 3, c. 1 and September 4, 1878, p. 3, c. 2.
- The Prescott Courier, August 8, 1893, p. 2, c. 2. (reprint from Arizona Miner, September 21, 1864.)